

INTERDEPENDENT-INTERACTIVE, CHURCH OF GOD, SABBATH SERVICES,
BIBLE STUDIES, AND OPEN FELLOWSHIP, PLUS THIS NEWSLETTER

January/February 2002-Issue No. 7

WHO ARE WE?

Group Name: We have no official name--nor do we want one--however we provide the following: INTERDEPENDENT-INTERACTIVE, CHURCH OF GOD, SABBATH SERVICES, BIBLE STUDIES, AND OPEN FELLOWSHIP.

Address: 320 N. Griffin St. City: Bismarck State: ND Zip Code: 58501

Country: USA Phone: (701) 258-7172 E-Mail: Darwin-Laura@juno.com

Fax: (775) 239-2119 Website: Possibly in the future.

Leadership Body: Christ the Head of God's Church, Colossians 1:18, Ephesians 5:23, and I Corinthians 11:3. Local contact persons are Darwin or Laura Lee.

Purpose: To provide Interdependent-Interactive, Church of God, Sabbath Services and Bible Studies to all of God's People, including those who are not welcome to visit or attend other groups due to having been suspended or disfellowshipped, as well as those who want a place to attend weekly, those who are just visiting our area, and anyone else who is interested in God's way of living. We also have open fellowship here, meaning that you are welcome to come visit with us during our open fellowship times even if you are not interested in attending our Sabbath Services or Bible Studies.

History: We held our first Bible Study here on June 30, 2000 and our first Sabbath Service was held on December 16, 2000.

Affiliation/Membership: Our Affiliation is with God our Father and His Son Jesus the Christ. Our membership includes *all* of God's people, no matter where they are.

Distinctive Doctrines: John 13:34-35

Use Sacred Names?: Since salvation is between God and each individual (Philippians 2:12), so the use of sacred names would be between each individual person and God.

Observe Holy Days?: We believe that God commands us to keep the Weekly Sabbath as well as Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets, Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day, however, we also believe there is much controversy out there in understanding if certain ones should or shouldn't be kept, how to keep them and when to keep them. So with this in mind, we will try to the best of our ability to accommodate these differences, believing and having faith that someday through God's Holy Spirit, we will all be brought into the same understanding on this subject. Until then let's follow John 13:34-35.

Evangelistic Efforts: We provide a service to God's People no matter where they are to the best of our ability. This service includes Interdependent-Interactive, Church of God, Sabbath Services, Bible Studies and Open Fellowship. We also welcome live speakers for interactive, and special music, on a volunteer only basis.

Periodicals: We have a newsletter, which we publish every 2 months.

Literature: We distribute tapes and literature for others and ourselves to the best of our ability.

Parent Group: The greater Church of God--The Ekklesia. Language: English

Other Language: None Country: USA

Name: Contact Persons are Darwin & Laura Lee Address: 320 N. Griffin St.

City: Bismarck State: North Dakota Zip Code: 58501

Phone: (701) 258-7172 E-Mail: Darwin-Laura@juno.com

Directions To Meeting: 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota, located at the corner of Rosser Avenue and Griffin Street, with plenty of side street parking.

Time of Meeting: Usually 1:00PM, but may vary.

SABBATH SERVICES--Every Saturday unless stated other wise (see 2nd page). We generally do a phone hookup rotation with one of the following: Dave Havar in Texas, Ray Wooten in Alabama or Ken Westby in Washington.

We also welcome live speakers, special music, cassette tape sermons, and video sermons, by or brought by others on a volunteer basis.

Sabbath Schedule is as follows:

12:00 Noon--Open Fellowship

(Door Open, Come In)

1:00 PM---Sabbath Services

3:00 PM---Open Fellowship

BIBLE STUDIES--We have Bible Studies approximately every 6 weeks. We have a Pot Luck Meal before we start our Bible Studies, so please bring food if you would like to participate in the fellowship, which goes with a meal.

Bible Study Schedule is as follows:

6:30 PM---Open Fellowship

(Door Open, Come In)

7:00 PM---Pot Luck Meal

(Bring Food)

8:00 PM---Bible Study

9:00 PM---Open Fellowship

Bible Study Dates are as follows:

Friday, December 28, 2001

Friday, February 8, 2001

Friday, March 22, 2001

GUEST ROOM--If you are from out of town and are here to attend Sabbath Services or one of our Bible Studies, we do have a guest room. Please call ahead so we know when you will be arriving. (701) 258-7172 (Please Leave a message.)

LOCATION--Sabbath Services and Bible Studies are held at the home of Darwin & Laura Lee, located at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota. Please use the upper back door by the garage. Phone Number (701) 258-7172 (Please Leave a message.)

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE--The deadline for submitting articles and letters for possible inclusion in our March/April 2002 Newsletter is February 15, 2002. Thank You. Laura Lee (Editor)

FAX--We now have fax 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our Fax number is: (775) 239-2119.

NEWSLETTER--CHURCHES OF GOD UK Has a monthly E-mail Newsletter called OUTREACH ---- If anyone is interested in receiving this newsletter, request it by E-mail: coguk@aol.com

E-MAIL & SNAIL MAIL

Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@juno.com Please use this E-mail address for prayer requests, prayer request updates, and prayer request inquires and information. All prayer requests go around the world via E-mail and are always printed in our newsletter. Thank you.

Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@juno.com Please use this E-mail address for anything which you want considered for inclusion in our newsletter such as articles, advertisements, letters to the editor or points of interest. If you do not want it printed, then do not send it to this E-mail address. The deadline for Issue #8--March/April 2002 is February 15, 2002. Thank you.

Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@juno.com Please, use this E-mail address only for those letters which you want an answer to. Send tape, literature and newsletter requests and unsubscribes to this E-mail address. If you do not want or need an answer to your E-mail, then do not send it to this E-mail address. Thank you.

Darwin-Laura@juno.com Please only send things to this E-mail address if you only want us to read it and you do not need or want an answer to it. Also, if you want to unsubscribe and do not need a notice stating you have been taken off, this is the place. Thank you.

FAX--We now have fax 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our Fax number is: (775) 239-2119.

SNAIL MAIL--When you send a letter or information via snail mail, and you do not need an answer back or if you do not want it printed, please be sure to clearly put that information in your letter. Our snail mail address is Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502. Thank you.

THE GREAT FALLING AWAY

by **Don Esposito**

This book is being distributed free of charge. Don's new book was just released with a Copyright of July 2001. If you are interested in getting a copy of this book, please write to: Don Esposito, 28 Swarthmore Drive, Carteret, NJ 07008 USA.

"THIS BOOK IS NOT TO BE SOLD! It is written and produced in the public interest to awaken and make Christianity aware of the lies and the distortion of facts in history and doctrine of the body of believers of Yashua the Messiah. If you would like to help produce more books for distribution, send your contribution to: Don Esposito, 28 Swarthmore Dr., Carteret, NJ 07008 USA" (This is a direct quote from the book "The Great Falling Away" by Don Esposito)

WILEY & SUZANNE BLACK -- ANOTHER CASE OF ABUSE

When cases of abuse such as this one, in regard to Wiley & Suzanne Black, are brought to our attention, we will try to make them available either by printing it or just offering it to those who want to read it. Bernard H. Kelly of Arcadia, California ran this story of abuse in the last issue of his publication "The Bible Expositor", and he has asked us to make it available to anyone who would like to read it. Some may not want to read of a case such as this one, however, we here do believe that as long as we cover up cases of abuse, we allow the abuse to continue, so we will not participate in covering up any abuse which is presented to us and we feel to be factual. Thank you. Laura Lee

You may order this literature on page 24 of this newsletter. You will find it listed under "Literature" and it is 16 pages long.

TAKE A 10 DAY TOUR OF THE HOLY LAND -- MONDAY APRIL 15, 2002 TO FRIDAY APRIL 24, 2002

Dear Israel Pilgrim,

Greetings! It is truly one of the most exciting experiences that you will have in your life to be blessed to be able to take a Pilgrimage tour of Israel. After reading the Holy Scriptures for so many years, to be able to see with your own eyes, will be a life changing experience. My wife and myself have been living in and around the land of Israel for close to two years now. So we are very in tune to the situation both politically and also on the ground. Let me first say that if any conditions get too dangerous, we will cancel the tour with a full refund of all money. Our tour guide Micha Askenazi is a seventh generation Jew of the land, and has been doing Pilgrim tours for over 42 years. Believe me when I say, there is none better in all the land. I have included a full biography on Micha (If you are interested in this email us at Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com or Don at espo7777@yahoo.com). He is a former historian, and archeologist, and puts that all together with a biblical viewpoint. It will truly be like being in school for a week. Just what you can learn from him alone, is well worth being on the trip.

We will see many archeological wonders, including the Red Sea crossing site in Egypt where 14th century BC chariot wheels have been found. There is also an underwater land bridge there, where the children of Israel crossed when Yahweh parted the Red Sea. You will also get to experience a drive down the Wati-Watir, the very road the Israelites took out of Egypt.

We will also go to the remains of the ancient city believed to be Gomorrah, where you can actually retrieve sulfur balls that are still there today, that Yahweh rained down from heaven. There is also an outline in ash of an ancient sphinx that we will see. Our entire site seeing is strictly based on historical, archeological, and biblical evidence. We will not be touring any Catholic Churches, or tourist traps, that so many guides try to take you to. We will also, for the first time on our tours, go to see the valley where David fought Goliath. We will also go to several locations where many of the wars of ancient Israel were fought, and experience the mountain terrain. Besides Mount Tabor we'll also get to see the ancient city of Bet Shean, and the valley of Meggido where Yahshua will fight his final battle at his return.

The total cost of all touring including airfare from America, hotel, visa cost to and from Egypt and two meals daily will be \$1899 per person. There is also a price of the land only package not including airfare. To be paid the following. Please immediately send a \$200 deposit with your filled out application (You can get an application by emailing us at Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com or Don at espo7777@yahoo.com). All family members must fill out an application including children. The next payment will be due Jan. 1, 2002 for \$600. Then a payment of \$600 is due on Feb. 1, 2002, and your final payment will be due March 1, 2002 in the amount of \$ 499. Applications received after January 30th will have an additional charge of \$100 bringing the total cost to \$1999. Children under 10 will be discounted 10%, and children under two are free.

Your brother in Yahshua,
Don Esposito

- Please make check payable to-Israel Pilgrim Travel.
- There is an additional \$200 dollar fee for single room occupancy. If you are traveling alone, we can try to put you with another brother or sister, to avoid the charge.
- We do have the applications here and can send them out snail mail for you, if you send a mailing address to us at Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com or send it to us snail mail at Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502 or email Don at espo7777@yahoo.com or snail mail Don at Congregation of YHWH, 28 Swarthmore Dr., Carteret, NJ 07008. THANK YOU!!!

JUNIA, A WOMAN APOSTLE

by **Dianne D. McDonnell**
Arlington, Texas

Did you know that there were other apostles after the 12 disciples? Many people do not realize that Paul considered himself an apostle and referred to certain other leaders as apostles as well. Paul and Barnabas were

called apostles, Col. 1:1, Acts 14:3,4; also Silvanus and Timothy, read both 1 Thes. 1:1, and 2:6. But the most amazing reference to an apostle beyond the 12 is in Romans 16:7.

For many years many thought Junia(s) was a man--or if they admitted she was a woman, they discounted her as just someone highly regarded by the apostles. Recent scholarship proves she was both a female and an apostle! But let's start by looking at each piece of this scripture puzzle.

ROMANS 16:7

"Greet Andronicus and **Junias (Junia)** my relatives who have been in prison with me. **They are outstanding among the apostles**, and they were in Christ before I was." NIV (The NAS and NASU both use "outstanding", the KJV uses "of note" meaning notable.)

1. [Andronicus](#) means "man of victory".
2. [Ioungias-Junia](#), a common Latin female name meaning "youthful", a **Christian**

English	Greet	1.Andronicus	and
Greek	<i>aspasasthe</i>	<i>Andronikon</i>	<i>kai</i>
Strong's	782	408	2532
2.Junia	(the)	3.relatives	
<i>Iounian</i>	<i>tous</i>	<i>sungeneis</i>	
2458	3588	4773	
my	and	4.fellow prisoners	my
<i>mou</i>	<i>kai</i>	<i>sunaichmalootous</i>	<i>mou</i>
3450	2532	4869	3450
who	are	5.outstanding	6.among
<i>hoitines</i>	<i>eisin</i>	<i>episeemoi</i>	<i>en</i>
3748	1526	1978	1722
the	7.apostles	who	also
<i>tois</i>	<i>apostolois</i>	<i>hoi</i>	<i>kai</i>
3588	652	3739	2532
8.before	me	were	
<i>pro</i>	<i>emou</i>	<i>gegonan</i>	
4253	1700	1096	
in	Christ		
<i>en</i>	<i>Christoo</i>		
1722	5547		

woman at Rome, mentioned by Paul as one of his kinsfolk and fellow prisoners, Thayer's Greek Definitions. Also see the following pages for more proof.

3. **relatives** - Could mean related by blood, of the same race, or of the tribe of Benjamin.
4. **fellow prisoners** - They had once all three been imprisoned together, most likely for being Christian leaders. Paul would have gotten to know both of them very well.
5. **outstanding** - **Episemos** ep-is'-ay-mos - **remarkable, eminent** Strong's Greek-Hebrew Dictionary.
6. **among** - **En**, translated "among" 97 other times in the NT, in Matthew 20:26 "to be great **among** you" uses the same word. Expresses the idea of being within a group.
7. **apostles** - These were not of the 12, but apostle (meaning one who is sent) remained a spiritual gift, 1 Cor. 12:28, and we have biblical proof that **others became known as apostles** as they received this spiritual gift or calling. Paul and Barnabas were apostles, Col.1:1, Acts 14:3,4.; also Silvanus and Timothy, read both 1 Thes. 1:1, and 2:6.

8. **before** - These two were "in Christ" before Paul, meaning baptized before Paul was, and thus preceded him as Christians. Andronicus and Junia had more experience than Paul!

WAS JUNIA "AMONG" AS "ONE OF" THE APOSTLES, OR JUST HIGHLY REGARDED BY THE APOSTLES?

Many mentally read this scripture and add several of their own words—"They are (said to be) outstanding among (here they substitute "by") the apostles." Changing "among" and adding the other four words totally changes the meaning of this scripture! However, these four words—said to be/by—are not in the Greek text. In studying scriptures we cannot just randomly add words or change the words that are there! For the meaning "by" Paul would have used one of two totally different Greek words—para or pros—rather than using en which implies selection from within a group. **1**

Paul never relied on the opinions of other apostles to back his teaching or his praise. **2** He knew these two very well, having been in prison with them. Why would he be saying that others thought they were outstanding? He knew them best and he was praising them as

"**outstanding (or eminent) among the apostles.**" Paul considered them apostles just as he considered himself to be an apostle. They were part of the group called apostles, they were apostles, and were setting an outstanding example.

The Wycliffe Bible Commentary states, "Paul describes them as being **prominent among** the apostles, and as having been Christians before him."

The United Bible Societies Handbook Series, an acknowledged authority composed of a board of respected translators, first acknowledges that they are a male/female team, "Andronicus and Junias ... could easily have been husband and wife, or brother and sister." They acknowledge that some misunderstood the sentence, "to mean 'the apostles know them well,' but **a far more acceptable interpretation** would imply that these...were counted as apostles and were well known, for example, '**as apostles they are well known.**'" **3**

WHY WASN'T A WOMAN AMONG THE ORIGINAL TWELVE APOSTLES OF JESUS?

A woman might well have been killed because of the moral outrage in that day and time against a woman being one of the disciples. Traveling around together in the three and one-half year training period demanded maleness of the core group of disciples. The women who did travel with them were not formally called disciples and thus could be accepted by that culture.

Remember, all of the twelve apostles were Jewish males. Did that mean that from then on all apostles or leaders had to be Jewish? There were no American apostles or Canadian apostles, did that mean that Jesus would never later call American or Canadian ministers to serve him? The twelve were selected in a specific time period and to have a woman apostle in the original twelve would have brought about persecution and accusations of immorality. Jesus never said anything that would exclude later female apostles in the group that Paul was a part of. After the twelve we see that there was at least one woman, believed to be married, who was called to be an apostle—Junia. As early believers, she and her husband may well have been among the 120 disciples mentioned in Acts 1:15.

IS THERE PROOF THAT THE TERM "APOSTLE" CONTINUED BEYOND THE TWELVE?

See number seven on the chart for scriptures proving that others were called apostles in addition to the original twelve and Mathias. Men such as Paul, Barnabas, Silvanus and Timothy were all later apostles. Also see Thayer's. [4](#)

We also find other scriptural proof that there were many that were called apostles in the New Testament beyond the twelve. 2 Cor. 8:22-24 is translated "messengers of the churches" but it is the same Greek word, apostolos, Strong's 652, and could be translated as "apostles of the churches"! In Phil 2:25 Epaphroditus is also called an apostolon or apostle, but once again it was translated "your messenger" rather than apostle.

DO EARLY COMMENTATORS RECORD THAT JUNIA WAS A FEMALE APOSTLE?

Dr. Leonard Swidler states, "To the best of my knowledge, no commentator on the Text until **Aegidius of Rome** (1245-1316) took the name to be masculine." [5](#) So until the late 13th century, historical references all agreed that Junia was female, as did the men below.

Origen, of Alexandria who lived toward the end of the second century (c. 185-253).

See Epistolam ad Romanos Commentariorum 10, 23; 29.

John Chrysostrum, 4th century, (337-497) wrote, "Oh! How great is the devotion of this woman, that she should be even counted worthy of the appellation of **apostle**! (Homily on the Epistle of St. Paul the Apostle to the Romans XXXI).

Jerome (340-419) wrote that Junia was a female. (Liver Interpretationis Hebraicorum Nominum 72, 15.) Also **Hatto of Vercelli** (924-961), **Theophylact** (1050-1108), and **Peter Abelard** (1079-1142) [6](#)

HOW DID JUNIA BECOME KNOWN AS A MALE?

The change took place in approximately 1298 which was during the reign of **Pope Boniface VIII** (Benedict Gaetani, reigned from 1294-1303). You will remember that the first person to record the two as "men" was **Aegidius in Rome**, a contemporary of Pope Boniface VIII. The Catholic Encyclopedia goes on to tell us that this pope was accused of infidelity, heresy, simony, gross and unnatural immorality, adultery, magic, loss of the Holy Land, death of Celestine V, and more. When King Philip IV of France brought these charges against him five archbishops, 21

bishops and some abbots sided with the king! [7](#) This evil man had persuaded the pope before him, Celestine V, to resign, and then following his own election as pope, imprisoned the elderly man until his death. [8](#)

One famous quote from Boniface VIII is, "It is altogether necessary to salvation for every human creature to be subject to the Roman pontiff." [9](#)

A papal decision that dealt directly with religious women was the papal bull known as Periculoso, which was the first word of the Latin text. This decree of 1298 announced that all nuns, no matter their rank, or what rule they observed and no matter where their monasteries were located—**all nuns were to be perpetually cloistered!** Unless a nun became contagiously ill, she could not leave her monastery or invite "unauthorized persons" into the monastery. [10](#) Once they had been free to come and go on their own religious business and ministries, now nuns were to be totally separated and no longer free to come and go as they wished. This was a milestone decision and transformed monasteries into virtual prisons! One order of nuns threw the bishop delivering this decree out of their convent and tossed the edict along after him! One reason given for this decree was for their safety, but soon afterwards many safe monasteries out in the country were closed and relocated to cities, so this reason did not really seem valid. Boniface may well have wished to limit the power and influence of the women of the church. Many nuns protested but the edict remained and continues to this day. Nuns never regained the freedom they had before the edict of 1298.

Monasteries of women were famous for producing their own copyists and illuminators of manuscripts. [11](#) Therefore these nun bible copyists and educated nuns among them such as Gertrude the Great (1256-1302) who wrote Herald of Divine Love, would have been able to cite Junia as an apostle from the biblical record of Romans. Did Boniface VIII also rule that Junia would henceforth be considered a male? Conclusive evidence eludes us, but we do know that at about the same time as this edict against nuns, medieval biblical commentators began referring to Junia as a male! The first person Dr. Swidler sites to do so is **Aegidius of Rome**. If this is the same man as Aegidius Colonna, the Archbishop of Bourges who helped Boniface write one of his major papal bulls—then we have a direct link to Boniface VIII. [12](#) Another shocking change occurred at about this same time.

"JUNIA" BECOMES "JUNIAS"

"Without exception **the church fathers in late antiquity identified Andronicus' partner in Romans 16:7 as a woman** as did minuscule 33 in the 9th century which records Iouinia (Greek for Junia) with an acute accent. Only later **medieval copyists** of Romans 17:7 could not imagine a woman being an apostle and **wrote the masculine name Iouinias** (Junias) with an s. **This later name Junias did not exist in antiquity**; its explanation as a Greek abbreviation of the Latin name 'Junianus' is unlikely." [13](#)

At about the time of Pope Boniface's edict removing the freedom of nuns in 1298, copyists began writing the name Junia as Junias! Yet recent research has shown that the newly created name, Junias, didn't even exist at the time of Paul!

"This hypothetical name Junias is, however, as yet unattested in ancient inscriptions, but the female Latin name Junia occurs over 250 times among inscriptions from ancient Rome alone. Further, the ancient translations and **the earliest manuscripts with accents support reading Iouinian as Junia**. Finally, Junias would be an irregular form. Therefore, critical scholars today increasingly interpret the name as the feminine Junia." [14](#)

Junia was a very common Latin female name and we have no record of any Roman male bearing the name Junia. But medieval copyists began copying the name with an "s" to hide Junia's sex, not knowing that the name Junias "did not exist in antiquity"! So Junia received a fictitious name, possibly at the command of Pope Boniface VIII!

APOSTLE IS LISTED AS ONE OF THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS GIVEN BY GOD.

God Himself gives the ability to do these jobs, "And in the church God has appointed first of all **apostles**, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues." 1 Corinthians 12:28, NIV

Apostle is listed first by Paul as one of the most important of the spiritual gifts because these individuals are responsible for evangelizing, setting up churches, organizing them, handling the problems that arose, ordaining elders for each church and generally coordinating, supervising and serving a number of congregations. Again, it is God that gives these individuals the ability—as a

spiritual gift—to do a certain job. Ordination was usually done long after the person was already getting the job done through the leading of God's Holy Spirit. You will notice that Stephen was performing miracles and preaching even though his ordination had been to deacon, see Acts 6:1-10.

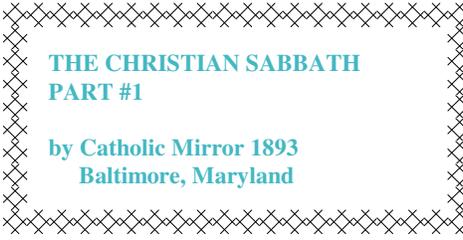
Since Junia was given this highest spiritual gift along with her husband Andronicus, it is obvious that women can also be given the calling (spiritual gift) of serving God as a prophet, teacher, or any of the other spiritual gifts. In the scriptures that explain spiritual gifts there is no indication that any gift is limited to males only. Both men and women are to work together using whatever talents, abilities and spiritual gifts they have been given by God to serve, in a servant manner, the people of God.

1. Aida Besancon Spencer, Beyond the Curse, page 102.
2. Galatians 1:18-24
3. United Bible Societies Handbook Series, (1961-1997) for Romans 16:7
4. Thayer's Greek Definitions 652 apostolos—a delegate, a messenger, one sent forth with orders a) specifically applied to the twelve apostles of Christ b) in a broader sense, applied to other eminent Christian teachers.
5. Leonard Swidler, Biblical Affirmations of Women, Westminster Press (1979) p. 299
6. Charles Trombley, Who Said Women Can't Teach, Bridge Publishing (1985) p. 190
7. Catholic Encyclopedia, 1913 edition, article on Pope Boniface VIII
8. New Catholic Encyclopedia, 1967 edition, Vol. 2, article on Pope Boniface VIII
9. From papal bull, Unam Sanctam, Nov. 1302, as quoted in The Encyclopedia of Religion, 1995, Vol. 1, PP 288-289.
10. Elizabeth M. Makowski, Canon Law and Cloistered Women, <http://cuapress.cua.edu>
11. Book review of Women in the Days of the Cathedrals by Regine Pernoud, translated by Anne Cote-Harriss, p. 2. Online: www.ignatius.com/magazines/hpr/Hprbooks.htm
12. Catholic Encyclopedia, (1913), "Pope Boniface VIII"
13. "Junia", The Anchor Bible Dictionary, (1992), Vol. 3, p. 1127

14. Women in Scripture, editor Carol Meyers, (2000), article "Junia" by Bernadette J. Brooten, p. 109

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**THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH
PART #1**

**by Catholic Mirror 1893
Baltimore, Maryland**

**CATHOLIC MIRROR--BALTIMORE,
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1893**
(From page 8 of the *Catholic Mirror* of Sept. 2, 1893)

THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH
THE GENUINE OFFSPRING OF THE UNION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HIS SPOUSE. THE CLAIMS OF PROTESTANTISM TO ANY PART THEREIN PROVED TO BE GROUNDLESS, SELF-CONTRADICTORY, AND SUICIDAL

Our attention has been called to the above subject in the past week by the receipt of a brochure of twenty-one pages, published by the International Religious Liberty Association, entitled, "Appeal and Remonstrance," embodying resolutions adopted the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists (February 24th, '93). The resolutions criticize and censure, with much acerbity, the action of the United States Congress, and of the Supreme Court, for the invading the rights of the people by closing the World's Fair on Sunday.

The Adventists are the only body of Christians with the Bible as their teacher, who can find no warrant in its pages for the

change of the day from the seventh to the first. Hence their appellation, "Seventh-day Adventists." Their cardinal principle consists in setting apart Saturday for the exclusive worship of God, in conformity with the positive command of God himself, repeatedly reiterated in the sacred books of the Old and New Testaments, literally obeyed by the children of Israel for thousands of years to this day, and endorsed by the teaching and practice of the Son of God whilst on earth.

Per contra, the Protestants of the world, the Adventists excepted, with the *same* Bible as their cherished and sole infallible teacher, by their practice, since their appearance in the sixteenth century, with the time-honored practice of the Jewish people before their eyes, have rejected the day named for His worship by God, and assumed, in apparent contradiction of His command, a day for His worship never once referred to for that purpose, in the pages of that Sacred Volume.

What Protestant pulpit does not ring almost every Sunday with loud and impassioned invectives against Sabbath violation? Who can forget the fanatical clamor of the Protestant ministers throughout the length and breadth of the land against opening the gates of the World's Fair on Sunday? The thousands of petitions, signed by millions, to save the Lord's Day from desecration? Surely, such general and widespread excitement and noisy remonstrance could not have existed without the strongest grounds for such animated protests.

And when quarters were assigned at the World's Fair to the various sects of Protestantism for the exhibition of articles, who can forget the emphatic expressions of virtuous and conscientious indignation exhibited by our Presbyterian brethren, as soon as they learned of the decision of the Supreme Court not to interfere in the Sunday opening? The newspapers informed us that they flatly refused to utilize the space accorded them, or open their boxes, demanding the right to withdraw the articles, in rigid adherence to their principles, and thus decline all contact with the sacrilegious and Sabbath breaking Exhibition.

Doubtless, our Calvinistic brethren deserved and shared the sympathy of all the other sects, who, however, lost the opportunity of posing as martyrs in vindication of the Sabbath observance.

They thus became a "spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men," although their

Protestant brethren, who failed to share the monopoly, were uncharitably and enviously disposed to attribute their steadfast adherence to religious principle, to Pharisaical pride and dogged obstinacy.

Our purpose in throwing off this article, is to shed such light on this all important question (for were the Sabbath question to be removed from the Protestant pulpit, the sects would feel lost, and the preachers be deprived of their "Cheshire cheese") that our readers may be able to comprehend the question in *all its bearings*, and thus reach a clear conviction.

The Christian world is, morally speaking, united on the question and practice of worshipping God on *the first day* of the week.

The Israelites, scattered all over the earth, keep *the last day* of the week sacred to the worship of the Deity. In this particular, the Seventh-day Adventists (a sect of Christians numerically few) have also selected the same day.

Israelites and Adventists both appeal to the Bible for the divine command, persistently obliging the strict observance of Saturday.

The Israelite respects the authority of the Old Testament only, but the Adventist, who is a Christian, accepts the New Testament on the same ground as the Old: viz., an inspired record also. He finds that the Bible, his teacher, is consistent in both parts, that the Redeemer, during His mortal life, never kept any other day than Saturday. The Gospels plainly evince to him this fact; whilst, in the pages of the Acts of the Apostles, the Epistles, and the Apocalypse, not the vestige of an act canceling the Saturday arrangement can be found.

The Adventists, therefore, in common with Israelites, derive their belief from the Old Testament, which position is confirmed by the New Testament, endorsing fully by the life and practice of the Redeemer and His apostles the teaching of the Sacred Word for nearly a century of the Christian era.

Numerically considered, the Seventh-day Adventists form an insignificant portion of the Protestants population of the earth, but, as the question is not one of numbers, but of truth, and right, a strict sense of justice forbids the condemnation of this little sect without a calm and unbiased investigation; this is none of our funeral.

The Protestant world has been, from its infancy, in the sixteenth century, in thorough accord with the Catholic Church, in keeping "holy," not Saturday, but Sunday. The discussion of the grounds that led to this

unanimity of sentiment and practice of over 300 years, must help toward placing Protestantism on a solid basis in this particular, should the arguments in favor of its position overcome those furnished by the Israelites and Adventists, the Bible, the sole recognized teacher of both litigants, being the umpire and witness. If however, on the other hand, the latter furnish arguments, incontrovertible by the great mass of Protestants, both cases of litigants, appealing to their common teacher, the Bible, the great body of Protestants, so far from clamoring, as they do with vigorous pertinacity for the strict keeping of Sunday, have no other resource [recourse] left than the admission that they have been teaching and practicing *what is Scripturally false for over three centuries*, by adopting the teaching and practice of what they have always pretended to believe an apostate church, contrary to every warrant and teaching of sacred Scripture. To add to the intensity of this Scriptural and unpardonable blunder, it involves one of the most positive and emphatic commands of God to His servant, man: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

No Protestant living today has ever yet obeyed that command, preferring to follow the apostate church referred to than his teacher the Bible, which, from Genesis to Revelation, *teaches no other doctrine*, should the Israelites and Seventh-day Adventists be correct. Both sides appeal to the Bible as their "infallible" teacher. Let the Bible decide whether Saturday or Sunday be the day enjoined by God. One of the two bodies must be wrong, and, whereas a false position on this all-important question involves terrible penalties, threatened by God Himself, against the transgressor of this "perpetual covenant," we shall enter on the discussion of the merits of the arguments wielded by both sides. Neither is the discussion of this paramount subject above the capacity of ordinary minds, nor does it involve extraordinary study. It resolves itself into a few plain questions easy of solution:

- Which day of the week does the Bible enjoin to be kept holy?
- Has the New Testament modified by precept or practice the original command?
- Have Protestants, since the sixteenth century, obeyed the command of God by keeping "holy" the day enjoined by their infallible guide and teacher, the Bible? and if not, why not?

To the above three questions we pledge ourselves to furnish as many intelligent answers, which cannot fail to vindicate the truth and uphold the deformity of error.

DUE TO THE LENGTH OF THIS ARTICLE IT WILL BE CONTINUED IN ISSUE #8--THANK YOU LAURA LEE (EDITOR)

BE STRONG AND OF GOOD COURAGE

**by Tommy S. West
Wake Forest, North Carolina**

Recently, I was given the honor and privilege to present a short message to a small local church group in Garner, NC --The Sabbath Church of God -- on the important subject of courage. Yesterday, I presented it to a group in Clinton, NC -- The Clinton Church of God. Courage is an attribute that God demands of us as we trek the road of life. It is NOT limited to Christians only -- it is a universal trait and is a characteristic of every successful person. Please allow me to further explain to you in deeper detail the meaning and consequences of this valued asset.

Let us begin with a secular dictionary meaning. Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition defines courage as: "Mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear or difficulty." Some synonyms are: mettle, spirit, resolution, tenacity.

We have seen a secular definition. Now let us spend a little while on the Biblical definition of courage. There are 5 uses of the word "courage" in scripture. As we examine each of these, perhaps we can achieve a clearer understanding of what this asset means to each of us. (KJV Throughout)

The first definition : Strong's #2388, chazaq, khaw-zak; a prim. root; to fasten upon. This definition has many applications. The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew And English Lexicon define courage (2388) as: "be or grow firm, strong, strengthen" Now, let's look at 2 examples.

- ❖ a. 2 Sam. 10:9-12 --" When Joab saw that the front of the battle was against him before and behind, he chose of all the choice men of Israel, and put them in array against the Syrians:

- ❖ V. 10 -- And the rest of the people he delivered into the hand of Abishai his brother, that he might put them in array against the children of Ammon.
 - ❖ V. 11 -- And he said, If the Syrians be too strong for me, then you shall help me: but if the children of Ammon be too strong for thee, then I will come and help thee.
 - ❖ V. 12 -- Be of good courage [emphasis mine throughout] and let us play the men for our people and for the cities of our God: and the Lord do that which seemeth him good."
 - ❖ b. Num. 13:17-20 -- "And Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said unto them, Get you up this way southward, and go up into the mountain:
 - ❖ V. 18 -- And see the land, what it is; and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they be strong or weak, few or many;
 - ❖ V.19 -- And what the land is that they dwell in, whether it be good or bad; and what cities they be that they dwell in, whether in tents, or in strongholds;
 - ❖ V. 20 -- And what the land is, whether it be fat or lean, whether there be wood therein, or not. And be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land. Now the time was the time of the first ripe grapes."
- The second definition: Strong's #7307, ruwach, roo'-ach; from 7306; wind. There is only one occurrence of this definition. It is found in Joshua 2:11 -- "And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God of heaven above, and in earth beneath."
- The third definition: Strong's #3824, lebab, lay-bawb' ; from 3823; the heart (as the most interior organ). Again, there is only one application in scripture. This is found in Dan. 11:24-25. The subject here is the coming BEAST and his exploits.
- ❖ V. 24 -- "He shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places of the province; and he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his father's fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches: yea, and he shall forecast his devices against the strong holds, even for a time.
 - ❖ V. 25 -- And he shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the south with a great army; and the king of the south shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall

not stand: for they shall forecast devices against him."

The fourth definition: Strong's #2294, tharsos, thar'-sos, boldness. This is the only New Testament usage of courage and it pertains to Paul. Let's look at Acts 28: 11-15.

- ❖ V. 11 -- " And after three months we departed in a ship of Alexandria, which had wintered in the isle, whose sign was Castor and Pollux.
- ❖ V. 12 -- And landing at Syracuse, we tarried there three days.
- ❖ V. 13 -- And from thence we fetched a compass, and came to Rhegium: and after one day the south wind blew, and we came the next day to Puteoli:
- ❖ V. 14 -- Where we found brethren, and were desired to tarry with them seven days: and so we went toward Rome.
- ❖ V. 15 -- And from thence, when the brethren heard of us, they came to meet us as far as Appii forum, and The three taverns: whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage."

Now we come to the fifth and last definition. I feel that this is the most important. This is Strong's #553, 'amats, aw-mats', to be alert. There are 8 uses of 'amats found in the Authorized Version, all of them in the O.T. We need to look at all 8 of these.

1. Deut. 31: 1-6

- ❖ V. 1 -- "And Moses went and spake these words unto all Israel,
- ❖ V. 2 -- And he said unto them, I am an hundred and twenty years old this day; I can no more go out and come in: also the LORD hath said unto me, Thou shalt not go over this Jordan.
- ❖ V. 3 -- The LORD thy God, he will go over before thee, and he will destroy these nations before thee, and thou shalt possess them: and Joshua, he shall go over before thee, as the LORD hath said.
- ❖ V. 4 -- And the LORD shall do unto them as he did to Sihon and to Og, kings of the Amorites, and unto the land of them, whom he destroyed.
- ❖ V. 5 -- And the LORD shall give them up before your face, that you may do unto them according unto all the commandments which I have commanded you.
- ❖ V.6 -- Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

2. Deut. 31:7 -- "And Moses called unto

Joshua [Joshua's original name was Oshea (Num.13:16b) and meant "salvation" but was changed by Moses to Joshua which means "God is salvation"], and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it."

3. Josh. 1:1-7

- ❖ V. 1 -- "Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,
- ❖ V. 2 -- Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.
- ❖ V. 3 -- Every foot that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.
- ❖ V. 4 -- From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.
- ❖ V. 5 -- There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.
- ❖ V. 6 -- Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them.
- ❖ V. 7 -- Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest."

4. Josh. 1:9 -- "Have not I commanded thee, Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

5. Josh. 1:18 -- "Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only be strong and of a good courage."

6. Josh. 10:24-25

- ❖ V. 24 -- "And it came to pass, when they brought out those kings to Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to all the captains of the men of war which went with him, Come near, put

your feet upon the necks of these kings. And they came near, and put their feet upon the necks of them.

- ❖ V. 25 -- And Joshua said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage; for thus shall the LORD do to all your enemies against whom you fight."

It is interesting to note that Joshua is a type of Christ which is proven by Heb.4:8.

There are 2 more examples of 'amats found in the O.T. They both pertain to incidents in the life of Solomon. These are 1 Chron. 22 : 9, 12-13 and 1 Chron. 28:20 1 Chron. 22:9 -- "Behold a son shall be born to thee [David], who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about: for his name shall be Solomon [peace], and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days."

- ❖ V. 12 -- "Only the LORD give thee wisdom and understanding, and give thee charge concerning Israel, that thou mayest keep the law of the LORD thy God.

- ❖ V. 13 -- Then shalt thou prosper, thou takest heed to fulfill the statutes and judgments which the LORD charged Moses with concerning Israel: be strong and of good courage; dread not, nor be dismayed."

- ❖ 1 Chron.28:20 -- "And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed; for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD."

Examples always serve to emphasize an edifying message. One only need to look at Joshua to observe a sterling example of courage. We see from Numbers Chapter 13 -- 14:10 that of the 13 spies who were sent by Moses to spy out the land of Canaan only two returned to give a good report. Caleb was one of these; the other was Joshua. Numbers 14:30 states that only Caleb and Joshua of the generation that left Egypt -- a multitude of over one million people -- would live to inherit Canaan. Surely, God rewards courage.

We also have the perfect and universal example of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who so courageously gave His life for all of us. (Remember that Jesus is an anglicized version of "Joshua" which means, God is Salvation.)

A more personal example of 'amats concerns my mother who lost her right leg to amputation last May. Over the past few years,

mother, who will be 78 on April 16th, has experienced several severe health crises including open-heart surgery in 1994. As a small child I remember her story about the train that was struggling to climb a steep hill. Every chug of the engine would say, "I think I can, I think I can". Because of that positive attitude, the little train engine successfully climbed the steep hill. Mother's attitude has always exemplified courage. Even when she was told that because of poor circulation, she would lose her right leg, she courageously accepted the news. At present, her circulation problem is under control and she is learning to use a prosthesis. Her attitude is still one of courage and optimism. I am deeply gratified to know that her blood flows in my veins. I thank God for her every day.

Hopefully, this word study on the word "courage" will edify and strengthen all who study it.

A friend sent a poem to me recently that directly relates to this study. I would like to leave it with you in closing.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN STRENGTH AND COURAGE

It takes strength to be firm,
It takes courage to be gentle.

It takes strength to stand guard.
It takes courage to let down your guard.

It takes strength to conquer.
It takes courage to surrender.

It takes strength to be certain.
It takes courage to have doubt.

It takes strength to fit in.
It takes courage to stand out.

It takes strength to feel a friend's pain.
It takes courage to feel your own pain.

It takes strength to hide feelings.
It takes courage to show them.

It takes strength to endure abuse.
It takes courage to stop it.

It takes strength to stand alone.
It takes courage to lean on another.

It takes strength to love.
It takes courage to be loved.

It takes strength to survive.

It takes courage to live.

-- Author Unknown

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"THEY SHALL NOT HURT NOR DESTROY..."

**by Arlan Weight
Bismarck, North Dakota**

The words shown above are taken from the text of Isaiah 65:25. It ends the section of scripture that describes a wonderful time in the future when there will be no more trouble or sorrow. There will be no destruction as we have recently seen in New York City.

These are the words that came to my mind as I watched the terrible mass destruction taking place September 11, 2001. It was so awful, so unbelievably heinous! How could any human being or group of human beings do what they did to other humans? Animals don't even do such things. Even the most vicious wild animals only destroy other animals for food. Never do they attack others of their own kind for wanton destruction only.

Watching those two aircraft smash into the twin towers of the World Trade Center looked like a Hollywood film production. It was only make believe. . . but no. . . this was for real. For a time I wanted to shut the reality out of my mind as I didn't want to believe it. I think most people did. But why? Why did so many people have to die? Especially so senselessly this way? Is there ever going to be a time when we don't hear or see such inhuman acts of cruelty? Are there any answers?

In the wake of this awful event we now know the perpetrators are members of an 'Islamic extremist group'. So now all Islam has come under fire. But is it Islamic? How about when the Christians are fighting the Jews or the Catholics fighting the Protestants or the blacks fighting the whites etc.? No, it's not Islamic, racial or any other specific cause such as this. The real cause is human nature. It's a human thing. Oh sure, it was an Islamic terrorist group that did the deed, but it all rests in the fact of their **hatred**. . . hatred

toward America.

Hatred is one of the works of the flesh. Notice what Scripture has to say about it. "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, **hatred, variance** (contention, quarrelsome), **emulations** (envy, jealousy), **Strife** . . ." (Gal. 5:19-20)

But why do they hate us so much? Where does it start? Does it not all start with education or more aptly named mis-education of the people? All of 19 young men that carried out this deed were taught to hate. When they were very young, they most likely were like other children... most lovable. Their only misfortune was to be born of parents who were hateful and misguided.

The children were thus taught to hate. . . **hate** America. They did not have this hatred at birth. America is pictured to these young children as the great Satan and to give one's life in fighting him is to be a great hero and upon one's death greatly rewarded in heaven. This sounds very much like what it says in John 16:2, "the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service." Granted, these are words Jesus spoke to his disciples, but the fact of the matter is that he's saying, people will actually be able to do such heinous cruel acts as this and think they are **pleasing God**. This blows my mind! How about you?

People are actually taught that God is pleased with this, but this modern age is not the first time people have been taught this. People of ancient times, including some Israelites, were guilty of sacrificing their young children by throwing them into the fire.

We look at this and say, "How could they do that?" But they did. And they did it thinking they were giving God their ultimate sacrifice. They were giving up something most dear to them and by doing so they thought they were really pleasing God! But what did God think of it?

God inspired Jeremiah to write, "They have built also the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings unto Baal, which I commanded not, nor spake it, **neither came it into my mind**..." (Jer. 19:5) He repeats it again in Jer. 32:35. "And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech, which I commanded them not, **neither came it into my mind that they should do this abomination**."

In fact God says He hates this. Look at Proverbs 6:17-18. "These six things doth the Lord hate: yea seven are an abomination to him: A proud look, A lying tongue, and **hands that shed innocent blood**. . ." Imagine that. God says something like this was so remote in thinking that **it never even entered His mind and that He hates it**. But here they were, so called well meaning people, going to the ultimate limit of their ability and sense of worship, to give up their own very sons and daughters, thinking that it greatly pleased God.

It's hard to imagine, but is this much different than what this Islamic group did? They too, must have gone through much soul searching and struggle to come to this point... the point at which they would sacrifice themselves. . . thinking it pleased God. Did these hands shed innocent blood? Were the 5000 plus people who lost their lives in the Trade Center buildings, the Pentagon and the aircraft innocent? Absolutely! Does God hate it? Absolutely! But the self sacrifice of these 19 young men, along with many others, began when the mis-education began. Here is where the real problem lies. So who is responsible?

Again, back in Jeremiah, it says they built the high places of **Baal**... to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto **Molech**... These were the gods they worshiped and sacrificed their children to. Do we think these people actually sacrificed their children to some great being, knowing full well he was not the true God. . . the Creator God of the Bible? No. They believed **Baal** was the true God!

But even though these people thought they were serving the true God, they weren't. They were **deceived**. They were following after god's that had been invented by the various nations at that time. The Bible is specific. It says the people **forsook the Lord and served Baal**. (Judges 2:13) Two different personalities, not one and the same.

At one time they had knowledge of the true God, but eventually, they lost it and turned to other gods. Baal was just one. There were many more. These people became more and more deceived. They thought they knew who or what God is but they were deceived, and a deceived person doesn't know he's **deceived**!

Satan - The Great Deceiver

In our society today it's not fashionable to believe in a Creator God, but it's even less so to believe in a devil. Could it be we are overlooking something when we simply apply

atrocities to humans, not recognizing there could be a diabolical force behind their actions? Could it be that this unseen evil spirit may be actually behind all the unrest and hostility since man appeared on the earth?

So if the God of the Bible says sacrificing children is an **abomination**, which God did they sacrifice to? And which God was pleased with the killing of the innocents? It can be only one. In 2 Corinthians 4:4 it says, "**the god of this world hath blinded** . . ." In Ephesians 2:2 He's called "the **prince of the power of the air**." But in Revelation 12:9 he's labeled as none other than "the **Devil and Satan**, which **deceiveth** the whole world." In Revelation 9:11 it describes this being "whose name in the Hebrew tongue is **Abaddon**, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon." **Apollyon** means 'destroyer'. Abaddon means destruction' (Young's Concordance)

This is the real god who was pleased with all this destruction and killing. He is the one who **hates** humans. He has deceived a certain segment of population to think otherwise. He would **deceive** humans into thinking it's the God of the Bible, the Creator, but again this God says it never "**entered his mind and he hates the killing of innocent people**."

Just like the Ancients of long ago this Islamic group thought they were sacrificing themselves to the true God, Allah. But whether you call him Allah, Baal, Molech, or some other, it's clearly not the Creator God... the God of the Bible. They were **deceived**!

These young men were misguided by this force to believe they were doing good when in fact it was a great evil. First they were taught, falsely, that America was the great evil. . . the great enemy. . . Satan. Once they had this teaching firmly entrenched in their young minds, then they were led to believe it's ok to **hate** them.

Hate is the beginning. It is the spirit of murder. Occasionally you will hear it said we need to 'hate evil and love good'. (Amos 5:15) But does it follow then that it's ok to hate 'evil' men and love the 'good' ones? Notice what Jesus said in Matthew 5:43, "**Love** your enemies, **bless** them which curse you, **do good** to them that hate you, and **pray** for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Love, bless, do good, and pray for them. . . that's a tall order. Is there any person in this country, or for that matter the civilized world who can love these young men who did this evil act? It's unlikely. Yet isn't Jesus saying we need to look beyond the persons. Look beyond the people and realize they are only

pawns doing what they have been programmed to do.

From birth they have been taught and taught some more to **hate**. Until finally, it's their nature. This is the way they are and they do what hateful creatures do. . . **kill** and **destroy**.

But is it the people? Isn't it that what caused the hate? Who influenced them in the first place? Notice what Jesus said in John 8:44. He told these people that wanted to kill him that they were simply doing what **their father** taught them and that was to **murder**. "Ye are of your father the devil and the lusts (desires & over desires) **you will do. He was a murderer** from the beginning. . ."

Plainly Jesus is saying the real guilty one is Satan and if we murder we are simply doing as he did... **murder**. And if we hate, it's the start of it all and anyone who does it is a murderer. "Whosoever **hateth** his brother is a **murderer**. . ." (1 John 3:15) These are strong words but we must come to see the nature of this problem if we are ever to have a chance of solving it.

Notice how Jesus was able to live up to the words he spoke in John 8:44. When he was hanging on that stake, exhausted and in extreme pain, bleeding to death, some of his final words were, "Father forgive them for **they know not what they do**." (Luke 23:34)

Can you even begin to imagine that! Here he was dying, beaten and bloodied beyond recognition by men who had been trained for that purpose. These were soldiers who were accustomed to cruelty. They did not feel any sense of remorse or guilt. This was something they did. This was their job. And yet Jesus said **they didn't know what they were doing**. They were simply following orders!

Jesus knew who was the real source of the anger and hatred. It was not these soldiers, neither was it the angry mob who cried out 'crucify him'. (Mark 15:14) The real source of the anger and hatred was the individual he alluded to the night before in John 14:30... Satan the devil. This was the real power and influence behind it.

Do you think these 19 young men who flew those planes into the twin towers, knew what they were doing? No, not any more than what those who killed Christ did. They, too were simply following what they had been taught. The 19 young terrorists had been taught to **hate**. They were consumed with it. But hate does not start out as hate. It grows out of a spirit of anger and anger comes from being offended in some way. It can even come

from envy and jealousy.

The point of this is that all humanity can be led down this path where hatred, death and destruction are it's result. And it all starts in the human heart as a spirit of anger, and if left uncontrolled, it can lead to **hate**.

Jesus said it this way. "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old, thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment. But I say unto you that whosoever is **angry** with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. . ." (Mat. 5:21-22)

Did Jesus ever get angry? Of course he did. When he threw the money changers out of the temple, was he angry? You bet! When he called the Pharisees a bunch of 'hypocrites. . . a generation of vipers', was he angry? (Mat. 23:13-33) Yes indeed. But what else did he say of them? He said they were **blind**. (Mat. 25:16,17,19,24 and 26) He said they were in the same mode as their fathers who **killed** the prophets (Mat. 23:31-32)

So did Jesus have a reason to be angry? Was he justified? After all wasn't he the one who sent the prophets in the first place? Yes he had every right to be angry. But those leaders, to whom he sent the prophets, were angry at the prophets for a different reason, and they **killed** them! They, too, **didn't know what they were doing**.

Today people get angry and stew over things and sometimes it grows into hate to the point of taking another persons life. This kind of anger comes from a different source than from what Jesus expressed. Jesus' anger was because of their **actions and what it was doing to them!**

We too can be angry and should be at times. But let's clearly understand and think about it that our anger is for the right reason. Is it because of the things we humans are doing that is causing all the havoc and calamities? Or is it simply because someone offended us or hurt us? We must be careful. We must come to recognize what anger and hatred can do to us. We must recognize where the source is and what it can do to us. September 11, 2001, is a stark realization of that. Anger and hatred can **destroy us**.

We must come to really see our enemy. It's not other humans even though it's humans who carry out these acts of violence and war. Our real enemy is unseen and he is active. He's active in society at large, and he's especially active in the Churches. For true Christians it's like a wrestling match. However for much of the world they are

blindly following his (Satan's) lead. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph 6:12)

Furthermore, mankind seems utterly helpless in controlling the anger and hostile nature. It's as if he's a captive, a willing captive, but doesn't know it. Notice what Jesus told the Pharisees and leaders of his day. He indicated to them that they were in bondage, but they could be freed from it. He said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed: and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31-32)

They answered him, we be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, verily, verily, I say unto you whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." (John 8:33-34)

These people didn't remotely get what Jesus was talking about. They simply were looking at bondage in a physical sense. But Jesus was talking about spiritual bondage. A person given to bursts of anger and hatred is bound to it just like any other sin. Therefore all the bombs in the world will not eradicate it. Only a change in the heart. . . a change in the mind, will do.

A Time of Trouble

Will America's response to the terrorist's attack make it go away? It's highly unlikely. A recent journalist commented on his experience in covering terrorist events. He said he'd seen when terrorists kill innocent victims, the government usually responds in like manner. They may kill some of those responsible but usually the government also kills innocent people. Every time this happens a new terrorist is born. And so the violence escalates. He went on to say the only way terrorism will be eradicated is when we look deeper into the religion and come to grips with why we do these things.

But will America be victorious in it's 'war on terrorism'? Many voices in America's churches are saying it depends on whether the nation as a whole repents and turns to God. This most assuredly could be the case. But whether America wins this battle may depend on another factor, one which the world, as well as the churches seem oblivious about. This factor may be the same as what it was in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah or as in the

days of Noah.

In Genesis 18 Abraham is discussing the issue of Sodom with one who claims to have the power to save or destroy it. In the course of the discussion it came down to how many righteous people there were as to whether the city would survive or not. In Genesis 18:32, "he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake." If there would have been ten people there, whom God viewed as righteous, the city would have been spared. But from the Bible record there were not ten. Only Lot and his two daughters were saved, and they were taken out of the city.

In the end of the age, the end of this present society, just before Jesus returns, conditions are going to get quite severe. In Matthew 24:6-8 Jesus foretold, "ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars... but the end is not yet... for nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. . . . All these are the **beginning of sorrows.**" It's just the beginning.

Could it be we are seeing the beginning of something with the terrorist attacks September 11, 2001, to signal just that. . . "the beginning of sorrows." America may win this bout, but on the other hand, as stated above, how do you win a battle over ideology? How do you change peoples hearts and minds from **hatred** to that of **love** for one another. So even if America wins this battle against terrorism, in the long run it only postpones the inevitable. Could it be we are seeing a sampling . . . the beginning of turbulent times ahead?

In Jeremiah 30:7 it says a time is coming described as "Jacob's Trouble." In Matthew 24:21 Jesus describes this time, "For then shall be great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. . ."

This latest bout with terrorism seems to have all the makings of leading up to world upheavals of a magnitude never before possible. Up until September 11, terrorism seemed to plague smaller nations, although America was plagued to some extent. But the latest event was of a magnitude great enough to generate a war.

In a recent news report on 'National Public Radio', a reporter interviewed some official as saying, "If these terrorists would have had nuclear devices or 'weapons of mass destruction' on September 11, the carnage would have been **far worse.**" But think of it. Do these terrorist groups have this potential? Do they possess this capability or are they

gaining in their capacity? What about the latest with the Anthrax attacks? What next will it be?

The leader of the fanatical group that attacked the Twin Trade Center Towers in New York 'has called it a **religious duty** to acquire weapons of mass destruction'. He is urging all Islam to join in seeking to develop the "Nuclear Bomb of Islam **to fight against the enemies of God**". The worst possible scenario might be on the horizon where a group of fanatics will have weapons of mass destruction and will be driven to believe they are '**pleasing God**' in using them. The unthinkable now becomes thinkable . . . , maybe a reality!

In Matthew 24:22 Jesus said, "and except those days should be shortened there should no flesh be saved."... The world would end in a ball of fire. . . but **for the elect's sake** those days will be shortened." In Genesis 18, ten righteous people could have saved Sodom and Gomorrah. How many **elect** will it take to spare this world in the future from total destruction? Who are these elect? How is it that they weigh that much in the balance of things that God would intervene in sparing the world?

For years the church has been on radio and television warning this nation and the world in general of a time of great trouble coming. Through all this preaching America and the world have not really turned around and made peace. The world in general is still heading down that path of total destruction unless. . . unless something changes that course. The only thing this writer sees from scripture to change that course is that God will intervene '**for the elect's sake**' (Matt 24:22)

The Church as the Elect

Today's world is in captivity to that unseen spirit, and peace will not come until that being is removed. Today he (Satan and his demons) occupy an unseen world we humans think little about. We can't see this world now but we can know how it works. These evil forces are behind all the unrest and all the hostility between nations and neighbor to neighbor.

Paul spoke to newly converted church members, those who were called to a different way of life. "And you hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins: wherein time past ye walked **according** to the prince of the power of the air, **the spirit that now worketh** in the children of disobedience among whom also we had our conversation

(conduct) in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of **wrath** even as others. (Eph 2:1)

The word 'wrath' comes from the Greek word 'orge' meaning 'anger', indignation, or vengeance'. (Young's Concordance) Did you get that? Paul is saying at one time the converted Christians were children of **anger, indignation** and **wrath**. Do people today still operate under those things? You bet, and how! But the church is to be different. Those whom God has called and is working with, is training, is teaching to put away these things.

Notice what Paul told the Ephesians. "Let all bitterness, and **wrath**, and **anger** and clamour, and evil speaking **be put away** from you. . . (Eph 4:31) Are we there yet? Are all the churches of God, with all their various groups, really working on putting away all the differences and accepting one another in the spirit of true fellowship? Do we truly exhibit the character traits of God's holy spirit when talking about the brethren, no matter what their affiliation is, no matter what 'church of God' corporation, or what splinter group they choose to meet with?

Let's be honest about it. The very fact of all the splits is a result of **unwillingness** to really confront this issue. If we have disagreements do we exhibit forbearance, longsuffering, mercy, and forgiveness with one another? Or rather do we suspend, disfellowship and shun each other? Do any of these latter character traits have any place in God's church?

Well, you say, "There are times when we must exercise authority to **maintain unity** by sidelining those unsavory elements. This is what God would have us do." Would he? Would God say we are to treat each other this way? What kind of message are we sending to our children?

Recently my grandson was pointing a make believe gun at something or someone. When I told him we're not to do that, he responded by saying, "grandpa, I'm only shooting monsters." (bad guys). Is this much different than when church leaders say, "we're only **disfellowshipping** the 'bad guys'?"

No, it's very much the same as when those 19 terrorists were taught to **hate**. Hate what? The bad guys. . . in this case the USA. No, we've got to think deeply about this. Is God really pleased with baring the doors and forbidding brethren from fellowshipping with one another. Just as our ancestors were deceived into thinking they were pleasing God, when they were displeasing him, we, too

must be careful we're not being **deceived**. Could it be possible the 'Church' today has some of the same blindness Jesus said the Pharisees had? One of the things He (Jesus) said of the Laodiceans was that they are 'wretched, and miserable, and poor, and **blind**. . .' (Rev. 3:17)

When Jesus said, "**Love** your enemies, **bless** them who curse you, **do good** to them that hate you, and **pray for** them that despitefully use you and persecute you. . .", he was all inclusive. He didn't give us permission to be angry or hate anyone, much less those whom we once called brethren. Anger leads to hate and **hate** is the spirit of **murder**. Again let's really think about who's children we are when we harbor ill will or shun those of the brotherhood or bar them from fellowshiping.

In this world and in this society leaders and governments operate under a different set of standards and rules from that what God's government requires. In the Old Testament God gave rules governing when killing or warfare were to be done. To this writer it was very much like when Moses permitted divorce on certain occasions. But what did Jesus say, "**Moses because of the hardness of your hearts** suffered you to put away your wives: but **from the beginning it was not so**. . ." (Mat. 19:8)

From the beginning of time it has been God's intent that humans learn to live in happiness and peace. But, it appears evident, God has decreed, man must make a choice. Man has to choose to learn which way he will walk in. Over the centuries you would think it would become clear to him which way works and which way doesn't. The lesson of history, though, is that man still has not learned. Man still is blind to his captivity.

But again the **elect** are different. They are operating under different guidelines, different rules of engagement. They are the called, chosen, and faithful. (Matt. 20:16, 22:14, 1 Pet. 2:9, Rev. 17:14) They are truly learning that **God's way** of breaking the **cycle of violence** is the only way that works. If someone treats you wrong or causes you pain, don't retaliate in like fashion. "Bless them which persecute you: bless and curse not. . . Recompense no man evil for evil. . . If it be possible, as much as lies within you live peaceably with all men. . . avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written vengeance is mine; I will repay saith the Lord. Therefore if your enemy hunger, feed him; If he thirst give him drink. . . be not **overcome** with evil, but overcome evil

with good." (Rom. 12:14-21)

This sounds absolutely ridiculous to this world. They simply can't or won't follow these clear instructions. The **elect**, on the other hand, can see it is the **only** way that really will work in bringing peace and maintaining it. The word 'overcome' comes from the Greek word 'nikao' meaning "to gain the victory" (Young's Concordance)

Overcoming surely means rejecting every way that is contrary to God's law. But the context of overcoming in Romans 12:14-21 is that of putting away **anger** and **hatred**. The message to all seven churches in Revelation is the same as what Paul told the Romans. The word 'nikao' is the same one used.

1. **Ephesus** - "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life." (Rev. 2:7)
2. **Smyrna** - "He that overcometh shall not be hurt with the second death" (Rev. 2:11)
3. **Pergamos** - "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna." (Rev. 2:17)
4. **Thyatira** - "He that overcometh. . . will I give power over the nations." (Rev. 2:26)
5. **Sardis** - "He that overcometh . . . I will not blot out his name out of the book of life." (Rev. 3:5)
6. **Philadelphia** - "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God" (Rev 3:12)
7. **Laodicea** - "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne." (Rev. 3:21)

When God sends Christ back to this earth he will finally put an end to war. He will use his great power to do so. But then he says his government will take over and rule this world. Those who he now calls his **elect** will be ready to start their term in office. They will be the ones trained to **love** instead of **hate**. They will be the ones who have grown in the use of God's spirit of longsuffering and mercy. They are they who will be given the chance to **change the world**. Not by **power** or **might** but by my **spirit** saith the Lord of Hosts. (Zechariah 4:6) Then all nations will learn not to make war and destroy.

So who are God's **elect**? We say, "well. . . only God knows." But in Matthew 7:15-20 Jesus said you can know who they are. It's not a mystery. It's by what they are producing. What is the fruit of their doing? In John 13:35 Jesus highlighted the one character trait that un-mistakenly identifies those that are truly his. He says, "By **this** shall **all** men know that

ye are **my disciples, if ye have love one to another**. He says all men can and will know. It's plain to see.

So what kind of picture does the world have today of the 'Church of God'? Do they see all the various groups intensely interested in each other that we will still drive hundreds of miles a week to fellowship with those of like faith? Or rather are they seeing the many factions as proof positive that we are not that special group Jesus talked about? Does it not appear more like the latter?

The terrorist action that took place September 11, 2001, should be a wake up call to each one of us how insidious anger and hatred can be. We in the church ought to see it as high time that we begin **building bridges** to reconcile with each other. It's not that we can't have different thoughts, opinions, or understanding, but the bottom line is that we must be actively working toward the goal of loving each other. We all have things to **overcome**. None of us can say we have no sin. Therefore none of us have a right to point fingers at anyone. But if we have an attitude of sincere desire to help one another, it will become quite evident to all, who is doing God's will.

Hate is one of the things true Christians must put away and overcome. Those who do will be the ones to teach the world how to in the future. Then the earth will finally find rest. Then "many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and **he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths**: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plow shares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, **neither shall they learn war any more**." (Isaiah 2:3-4)

Then "The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. **They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain**, saith the Lord." (Isaiah 65:25)

**TAKE HEED THAT NO MAN
DECEIVE YOU**

by Garry D. Pifer
Bloomington, Illinois

Jesus' disciples came to Him on the mount of Olives and asked Him what would be the sign of His coming and of the end of the world. His response, known as the Olivet prophecy, is found in Matthew 24 and Mark 13. It is interesting to note His first statement, as recorded in verses 4 and 5 of Matthew 24. He instructed them, and us, to "take heed that no man deceive you." He continued by saying "many shall come" and "shall deceive many." They would be able to do that by coming in His name, "saying, I am Christ." Numerous commentaries and Bible helps would suggest that Jesus was saying that "many" would come and say that they themselves were the returned Christ. Though there might possibly be a few who would attempt to lead some astray in this way, it doesn't appear that there are "many" doing such. However, there are "many" that come in Jesus' name, as His disciples, His followers, believers, and proclaim that "I am," which as we know was the name by which Jesus revealed Himself to Moses in the Old Testament, is "Christ," the Messiah. And, Jesus tells us, that even though they come in that manner we must "take heed," we must be careful, to not let their teachings deceive us. Just because they claim to be followers of Jesus Christ and come proclaiming Him as Christ, doesn't mean that all they say is true. Ezekiel 22:28 comes to mind. Speaking of "her prophets" he says they are guilty of "divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord God, when the Lord hath not spoken."

I believe that today we do see "many" coming in the name and authority of Jesus, proclaiming Him as the Christ, but speaking many things that supposedly are the words and truths of God and the Bible when in fact they are speaking lies. Sadly, many are being deceived. And, perhaps what we haven't been willing to acknowledge, this isn't occurring only within Christianity around us, BUT also within our own midst. We definitely need to hear Jesus' warning and take heed.

One area (of many) that a number of individuals have been speaking out on and are attempting to use Scripture to support is that of entering the military service to participate in the war on terrorism. They are attempting

to give their words a "thus saith the Lord God" but the clear Scripture tells us "the Lord hath not spoken."

Let's look at some of the clear Scripture and see what the Lord has spoken. Early in His ministry Jesus made a profound statement that is just as true today as it was then. Notice Matthew 6:24. "No man can serve two masters:" He goes ahead to say that he will hate one and love the other, or he will hold to the one and despise the other. But, He clearly says that there is no way a man can serve both. Who is our master? There are a number of Scriptures that tell us that we have been bought and paid for by Jesus, through His sacrifice. 1 Corinthians 7:23 tells us this. "Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men." When one enters the military he is owned by the government. He is the servant of the military system. He can't come and go as he wills, he can't quit because the going gets rough, he is a "G.I.," government issue.

In Romans the sixth chapter Paul speaks of our being no longer slaves of sin. He says we have become the servants of righteousness (verse 18) and servants of God (verse 22). The Greek word from which "servants" is translated is *douloos*, which means "to make a slave of." Metaphorically it means to give oneself "wholly to ones needs and service." It means to "make myself a bondman to him." We are the slaves, the bond servants, of Jesus and of God. And, as Jesus plainly told us, **WE CAN NOT SERVE TWO MASTERS.**

In John 15, which has been read during traditional Passover services, Jesus states that His disciples "are not of the world" (verse 19). During His prayer just before He was taken (chapter 17 of John) He states several times that His disciples were not of the world. Notice verses 14 and 16. "They are not of the world." In verse 15 He specifically says He wasn't praying that His disciples be taken OUT of the world. They and we must live in the world BUT must not be OF the world. Joining the military makes us OF the world.

Just a few verses over, chapter 18 and verse 36, Jesus makes a very powerful statement. "My kingdom is not of this world." His kingdom was not established yet. And, His kingdom will not be a kingdom of the world. It is to be totally different. He continued, "if my kingdom were of this world" (which it wasn't and isn't) "then would my servants" (who can not serve two masters) "fight." He concludes the statement by stating "but now is my kingdom not from hence." When He returns to establish His kingdom He

will make war and there will be armies following Him (Revelation 19) but we are told that "in righteousness he doth judge and make war (verse 11). No war that man enters into can truly be one of righteousness.

The Apostle Paul makes it very plain in his writings, which are a part of Scripture, that we have been conscripted into the army of Jesus Christ. Writing to Timothy, 2 Timothy 2:3, he says, "Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." The next verse gives us further instruction. "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." Paul knew, just as Jesus said, we can't serve two masters. One who has been "chosen to be a soldier" can not be involved in other affairs of life. His total commitment is to his commanding officer. As soldiers of Jesus Christ, our commanding officer, we can not be a part of another man's military. We have been chosen to serve Jesus Christ and be a part of His army.

Paul also addresses the fact that we are already in a war, but it isn't the physical warfare of killing other human beings. Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-4. "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)" Also, notice Ephesians 6:12. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Our battle isn't fought with guns and tanks and aircraft. We are in a spiritual battle. And, again, the word of the Lord, the Scriptures tell us how we should be fighting this war.

Many are "pumped up" following the September 11 events. They want to "do something." Sadly, many are attempting to deceive them into getting involved with the physical warfare of the world rather than look to the Word for direction. Let's look at the words of God as recorded in Ezekiel 22:30. "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none." The word translated "gap" is elsewhere translated "breach." How do we stand in the breach, the gap? We don't have to "figure it out" in our own reasonings. The Scriptures give us examples of many of the men of God who stood in the breach before God.

Moses, a man most meek, stood in the breach when God had decided to destroy the whole nation of Israel and start over with Moses. Look at Psalms 106:23. "Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath, lest he should destroy them." How did Moses "stand" before God in the breach? Read the entire account in Exodus 32. Verse 11 says he "besought the Lord his God." In verse 30 Moses told the people he would "go up unto the Lord; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin." He stood in the breach by talking to God. Notice verse 31, "Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold." Moses was heartfelt in his prayer. He wanted God's mercy upon His people. Look what he says to God in verse 32. "Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written." We know "the rest of the story." God "repented" of the evil he thought to do unto His people.

Nehemiah also was a servant of God that stood in the breach between Israel and God. You can read the account in the first chapter of Nehemiah. We will look at a few verses. In verse 4 he says that "it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven." Notice how he prayed. Verse 5, "I beseech thee, O Lord God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments." Continuing in verses 6 and 7, "Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned. We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgements, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses."

After rehearsing the words of God that had been given to Moses in verses 8 and 9 Nehemiah tells God that he, and the Israelites, are the people of God. He then cries out to God in verse 11, "O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." He was

fighting for Israel, but not with implements of carnal, physical warfare. He was standing in the breach, beseeching God with prayer and fasting.

Another powerful example of a man of God standing in the breach for his people was Daniel. In chapter 9 of the book of Daniel we find Daniel coming to understand from his study that God's word had come to Jeremiah revealing what God "would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem" (verse 2). Notice how Daniel responded. Verse 3, "And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:" You can read on through the next several verses and you will see the attitude that Daniel had. He confessed the sins of himself, Judah, Jerusalem and all Israel. He repeatedly says that they had not obeyed God, that they had transgressed God's law and they were receiving the curse and "the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him." (Verse 11) Down in verse 16 he begins to beseech God to turn His anger and fury away from Jerusalem. He continues in the next several verses to ask God to hear his prayer and his supplications, to incline His ear and hear. And, he concludes his prayer, the last half of verse 18 and verse 19, by saying, "for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousness but for thy great mercies. O Lord, hear; O Lord forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name."

These individuals had a deep concern for the nation. They did what really makes a difference. They came to God in heartfelt prayer, supplication, and fasting. Fasting, unpleasant to most, is a powerful tool when properly used. In Isaiah 58 we see the contrast of the type of fasting that accomplished nothing other than hunger and the fast that God has chosen. (Verses 6-7) God tells us of the blessings and results of that proper fast. Interesting to note is the last half of verse 12, "and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in."

Once again, let us repeat the words of Jesus. "Take heed that no man deceive you." Some of the arguments and interpretations sound good. They often appeal to our emotional state. But, let us always "search the Scriptures" to see what the Lord God truly has spoken. If someone asks if it is proper for a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ, to join

the military, you don't have to tell them that it is their decision. It is their decision to follow the Word or not, but clearly the Bible shows us that as Christ's disciples, as good Soldiers of Jesus Christ, we can not entangle ourselves with the carnal warfare of this world. But, we don't have to stand by and wring our hands. We can stand in the breach and cry out to God with prayer and fasting for our nation. Plus, we can follow the words of our Lord as recorded in Matthew 5:43-45. "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

A LETTER FROM A READER

by Don Esposito
Israel

Dear Brethren,

Greetings in the mighty name of Yahweh and Yahshua. We pray that all are doing well. We have been much blessed these past few months with ministry and witnessing. Yahweh has even opened up some new doors for witnessing to Orthodox Jews. It has been at times challenging, but also quite rewarding. We have also just gotten a new door open to us to send much needed aid to Brethren in Ethiopia. Some of the sisters there are so poor that they do not even have a garment to cover their tops. Many are also starving to death. The early believers cared much for the suffering saints abroad (Ga. 2:9-10). In such a high tec, fast pace world we can not forget our brethren around the world who are suffering, many at the hands of Moslems for the good-news sake. We have been blessed by Yahweh, through you, his set apart Saints to be able to send aid to many parts of the world each and every month. Besides clothing we send aid such as aspirin, that even having one could in some cases save a child's life. We also try to send school supplies, and practical needs, such as sewing needles and thread. We truly want to thank all those that have helped, on behalf of all the poor saints worldwide that we have shared with.

I would also like to update you on another type of suffering that we would ask your prayers for. We know of a number of Orthodox believing congregations that have gone through much persecution for the Good-News of Yahshua's Kingdom. In many cases the Orthodox Jews have become violent to the believers. In one case they came at night to burn down the house of the believers. They planned on throwing a bottle full of lit gasoline through the window. Yahweh intervened. A brother was waken up in the middle of the night, and went to the kitchen to get a drink. Right then the bottle came through the window on fire right into his hand, and he was able to drop it into the sink, and no harm was done. In another incident, the Jews came and poured gasoline under the door where these Orthodox believers meet. Little did they know that there was a sewer grate on the other side of the door, so when they lit the gasoline on fire, the house was safe but the whole sewer went up on fire behind them. Again Yahweh is supreme. These are just a couple of examples to show you how violent that the Jews can get about Yahshua. I have been personally spit at, cursed at, and even tried to be stoned for witnessing about Yahshua. The time is coming very soon, when all those true believers will be put in prison and even killed over witnessing of Yahshua. It is now a hate crime in the World Court to try and change someone's religion. Brethren where do we stand? we must start to live by faith now or it will be too late later. I know that many Americans have been scared like never before after what happened on Sept. 11. But this is just the beginning. We must start to look at the priorities in our life and ask the hard questions about who is first in our life, Yahweh or this world? This world is passing as you read this letter, and Yahshua's Kingdom is right around the corner. It is truly coming close to the time of separating the chaff from the wheat. I pray that we may all wind up on the right side. Your in our prayers, as I know we are in yours.

Your Brother B'Shem Yahshua,
Don Esposito

A LETTER FROM A READER

by Hal Geiger
Helenville, Wisconsin

Dear Darwin & Laura

It was great to see half of your effective team at the Collins/Barn Party weekend. We missed you Darwin, but like Popeye always said "a mans gotta do what a mans gotta do" ...well anyhow hopefully you are getting business taken care of before the weather breaks.

My surgery and recovery couldn't have gone smoother, my salary was maintained by a "Medical Leave" program while I was gone and I am back at work now, so all is well that ends well. So...thank God and the people that he has worked thru.

Laura saw the many dozens of sympathy/encouragement cards that had been sent to me. Your prayer request service is obviously very effective and is a blessing to the people of God. Besides being an enormous boost for my spirits I found it powerfully inspiring to clearly see the compassion of God flowing thru so many people. The issue that made the greatest impact on me is that the majority of the cards were sent by people/groups that we did not know! These people simply saw a member of the body of Christ in need and responded like family, like the God Family that is.

May God continue to bless your lives and efforts.

Hal Geiger

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

by Laura Lee
Bismarck, North Dakota

This was originally sent out via e-mail on
December 2, 2001

Our newsletter is a free publication and is totally paid for by us and those who want to send donations to support this effort. We do not pay people for articles and we do not charge to put advertisements in. We do not always agree with every single thing that we print, however if we totally disagree with things you send to us, whether it be an article or an advertisement, we probably won't print it, although, we will contact you one way or the other--although not right away. Send all articles, points of interest and ads to:

Newsletter-Only-DarwinLaura@juno.com

All prayer requests from this point on, must be sent to [Prayer-Requests-Darwin-](mailto:Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@juno.com)

Laura@juno.com or it will not go out. All prayer requests sent to Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@juno.com are sent out all over the world via E-mail and they are all printed in our newsletter here. Other publications and churches also pick up on these prayer requests and sometimes print them also, and some churches announce them for services. This prayer request line is open to anyone in the entire world, we give no credence to corporation lines of any kind or any other lines for that matter.

This newsletter was started with the intent and goal of helping to bind up wounds of those who have been hurt by others individually or by corporation churches of any kind. We will publish or make available the good things sent to us as well as the bad stuff sent to us. You do really have to be clear as far as what you think we should do with what you send to us. We get many things in here all the time that have no note attached (What is your point?). A note would help us to know. Others send us all kinds of bits and pieces and then get upset at us when we don't do anything with it right away (Please express yourself, what is it you want us to do with these bits and pieces?).

Some publications print articles only if they are exclusive (written just for their publication). This is not us--if you send it and we like it, we will print it. If something is good and is biblical it should be printed so others can see it. We also do not care whether you think you are a big shot writer and somewhat famous or whether you are the little guy who no one has ever heard of before. We also don't care if you are a man or a woman. If you send us an article and we think it is good, we will print it.

Most of the time when I answer your E-mails and Snail mails, I many times do not beat around the bush--I cut to the chase. I am not going to always tell people nice things and smooth things--when asked or confronted, I give my opinion, clearly and honestly as I know how. If in giving my honest opinion as I see it, I have hurt someone and they feel I need to apologize to them, please send me an E-mail or Snail mail explaining what I have done specifically to you, so I will know. I am user friendly and I do apologize when it is in order--however I don't always know how the other person feels unless they clearly tell me. I am not doing this newsletter to hurt people, but it is my opinion that some of you need a reality check. This world we live in is not a fun place and there are people in Sunday

Keeping churches that God is working with, not just the people in your little corner of the world. Among many Sabbath Keepers, I still see many of you even though you have yourselves in some cases been thrown out of corporation churches, I still see you drawing your own little boundary lines to keep others from getting to close. Do any of you even get it yet that when Christ taught, he did it many times outside with no door and no lock and to the general public (anyone who wanted to hear)? Do any of you even get it yet, that Christ talked to sinners (which we all are). There is not one of us alive who knows who God is or is not working with in some way. So why would you not mend fences with your brothers and sisters. If you have a problem with another person, let them know and then work it out. Go to your brother alone do not go with an army of Ministers and Witnesses--go to him one on one. Follow God's instructions in Matthew 18:15-17. Do not follow your former teachers who choose never to deal with the problem, and just quit talking to you and even when you approached them to ask what the problem is all you get is dead silence. People cannot read your mind. I have one person upset at me over grammar--they cut me off. I have approached them 3 times and all I get is dead silence. I have another one upset at me because they think I did something, which I did not. I approached them with the situation and still dead silence. If you do not mend with your brother or sister, God will not hear your prayers (I Peter 3:7) See also Mathew 5:23 & 24. People do not always know when they have offended you, so you do need to let the other person know what the problem is. If all you get from the other person is dead silence, that to me, means they have no intention of mending anything with you, but at least you told them and tried to mend with them, so God will hear your prayers, because you did what God wants you to do. I did get behind on mail and maybe I did not answer things you thought I should or did not do perhaps, what you thought I should do with what you sent. Please let me know how you have been offended by me so I can mend with you. If you do not tell me, I will assume there are no problems between us.

With proper permission to copy and distribute, we also make some cassette tapes and literature of others available to the general public. If you have something you would like listed on page 23 & 24 of our newsletter, please send it to Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502, so

we can look at it for possible inclusion. Be sure to clearly mark it with a note of some sort that this is your intent by sending it to us and be sure to include your E-mail address, Snail Mail address or Phone Number so we can contact you after we read or listen to it.

By my bluntness in the above, I hope I have not offended anyone, and if I have please let me know. I deal with people for long hours everyday because of the newsletter we publish, and sometimes I look at what people complain about and how many still don't or won't even speak to family and friends, and even Sabbath Keepers who refuse to speak to other Sabbath Keepers and there are people starving to death, and people in need of us reaching out to them and our focus is not on others, but on ourselves instead. If anyone still wants Issue #6 of our newsletter or back issues, please let us know and send your snail mail address as these are all mailed snail mail. If any want to cancel their subscription, let us know and we will take you off. If anyone wants to print this whole thing as a letter to the editor, go for it. Following is a list of our E-mail addresses. If you write to us E-mail and want us to answer, please send it too: Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@juno.com

With all of this in mind, let's all work together to reach out to others and continue to bring love and concern to those on our prayer list, by sending these really important cards and letters to them, which they so much appreciate. If you disagree with things we print, write a letter to the editor or if you don't want the letter printed but want an answer send it via the appropriate method listed below. We are not here to make leaders of the past into bad guys nor are we here to make them good guys. We believe many people have been hurt by many different people and leaders and we believe it still continues. People do need to air their hurts and their problems and as long as it is done respectfully and in an appropriate manner as a letter to the editor or as an article we will consider it for inclusion. We are in no way trying to dwell on the past, however we will also not ignore that a past exists. People need to get the bad stuff out and have others help them to bind up those wounds before they can move on. We welcome any comments that others have in regard to this letter. Thank you.

With Much Love,

Darwin & Laura Lee (Letter by Laura)

A LETTER FROM A READER

by Lee Ann Sanders
Branchland, West Virginia

Dear Brethren,

I would, if I may like to address something that has bothered my husband and I for several years. We have attended several congregations since leaving WCG. What I am going to address is something that I hope all who attend a branch of the Churches of God will prayerfully consider.

- ☺ Ask yourselves, those of you who attend a Church of God. What is the main goal of my congregation?
- ☺ Does this goal include spreading the Gospel of Jesus to our community?
- ☺ Does this goal include getting involved with/or starting programs which feed the hungry, clothe them, counsel them, attend to their spiritual needs?

See, when I look around and look at the churches of the world, they are doing just that. And they are converting THOUSANDS. MILLIONS to Christ. One protestant pointed this out to me and I had to agree with him. I see sabbatarian brethren, constantly talking about the Sabbath, the Holy days, but not focusing on the very one who gave us these days. JESUS! While I do observe the Sabbath and Holy Days, and have even written articles about them, there is FAR MORE in the Bible than just the Sabbath. There is a message of love. Taking care of the poor and needy. Jesus' focus was healing mankind of sin. When He said in Matthew 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them. Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.....

What are these things? Was it how to observe the Sabbaths of our Lord? No! It was feeding the hungry, giving them drink (we can have food banks), taking in strangers (you can visit homeless shelters and help), clothing the naked (have free clothing giveaways), visiting the sick, (going to hospitals/nursing homes), visit those in prison (you can help encourage one who is in jail). Why are the churches of

God staying clustered in their little corners like little lady bugs, re-hashing doctrine over and over again, when, they need to spend more time not as individuals on their own spare time, but, as a collective church, and getting on their knees and praying for God to open more doors to them to preach the gospel by setting examples of spreading love out to the starving world? It's funny. I see all this "boy I'm glad we're free from corporate entities, like church government." Yeah, now that they are free, what are they doing now with this freedom they are so happy for? No corporate entity is now hindering them. This shows me something. It is too easy to blame church government for your own shortcomings. I am not saying this to be mean, but to stir up the Spirit within each and everyone of you, my precious brethren. If I didn't care. I would not write this. I am tired of the church of God's just sitting, glorying in their freedom, only to still be shackled by their own selves and their pet doctrines. Brethren. PLEASE, let's stop wasting our talents that God has given us. We, above all people, should be setting a far better example for our Lord than the other churches! Yet, Christ is not being preached, the congregations are sitting each Sabbath, re-hashing doctrine, and not reaching out like Jesus did! I challenge ALL CHURCH OF GOD GROUPS TO STEP OUT, AND REACH OUT TO THE LOST SOULS OF YOUR COMMUNITY! Stir up the Spirit within you, prove to me and protestant/catholics that we are not a dead church! We must stop hiding our lights under bushels! My husband and I have served within and without the church for years. We have helped those who weren't christian, and christian. We have done it alone for TOO LONG NOW. Every congregation that is Sabbatarian that we attend, I will ask the members what kind of outreach do they do for the community. What do I get? Blank stares and the same answer every time, "well, we don't have any outreach/ministry". It makes my heart sink. I keep waiting for one to prove me wrong, yet, it's the same sad answer. It knots up my stomach. What is the use in preaching that God and Jesus is love, and then, don't show it to the world? This past Thanksgiving, we participated in helping in a small way with the local Baptist church to feed anyone who came in. I cooked dressing, gravy and made stuffed celery. We ate and actually got to deliver several meals to a low income apartment complex. The look on the

persons face when we took it to them was priceless. And they gave us a big ole hug, and I have to tell you. I knew that I knew what Jesus had to feel like when He fed the hungry. We worked side by side with fellow christians, serving those who were and were not in need. It was the best day of fellowship we had in a great while. We always enjoy being with our Sabbatarian brethren, but, this was unique. We were fellowshiping with those who were totally different than our faith and discussing the wonders of God's love and miracles, and serving others. I felt the connection so deeply it moved me later to tears. These precious souls were sacrificing a day they could have stayed home, ate their meals, but, here they were, serving people, and some were very ungrateful because their meal was cold. Yet, the serving of others without a big hoopla or big fanfare, was done quietly and with a purpose, to spread the love of God and Jesus with our works from our faith which stem from God and Jesus.

Brethren, let's open our hearts to the world, Jesus did! We are to do as He did. What hinders us as a body? Keeping the Sabbaths of our Lord will NOT SAVE US! Even the Pharisees kept them, but, they will be in the lake of fire because of a lack of compassion towards fellow man. I am asking everyone who reads this to take a stand against this continued apathy. Your congregations need to be moved mightily and with a PURPOSE! All of our collective prayers can move more than just mountains, but, the WHOLE WORLD! WE HAVE POWER WITHIN US TO DO THE MIGHTY WORKS OF JESUS! Let's get out of our little clusters, and DO HIS ALMIGHTY WILL! LETS STOP QUENCHING GOD'S MOST HOLY SPIRIT! I challenge every church of God organization to take this on. Show me that there is more to your faith than just re-hashing doctrine. There is a lot of field out there needing to be plowed. Will you step out and break ground? It's up to you. Then when all is said and done, will God say to us "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

With love, Lee Ann Sanders

P.S. If there is a Sabbatarian Church of God group that left WCG, and is serving the community in a big way and preaching Christ to them, please contact me so I can get in contact with them. Thanks!

**FEAST OF TABERNACLES 2001
AT CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
by Rosemary Halley
Chandler, Texas**

A full moon in the sky reflecting off the water, swaying palms, warm gentle breezes, the soft sound of waves lapping against the shore - doesn't this sound millennial? The 200 brethren attending the Feast of Tabernacles at Corpus Christi thought so. Add to that scenery, the multitude of brethren rejoicing, fellowshiping, laughing and crying together, listening to our God's Holy word, and praising Him with words and music - only in the millennium could it be better!!

Our glorious Feast at the Holiday Inn, Emerald Beach in Corpus Christi began on Monday evening with finger foods and fellowship, followed by an opening service welcome by our Feast Coordinator, Julian Cruz. Each day's services consisted of congregational singing led by Mike Cruz, with the words to the hymns projected on the overhead screen. Scripture readings were given each day by the younger members at the Feast Site: Brice McNault, Jennifer Calvert, Jason Curb, Brian Gawith, Brooks Willhoite, Ashley Stefek, and David Daniels. It certainly added a "family" flavor to the services with our youth participating. The sermons given each day were always inspiring, educational, and timely. The speakers at this year's Feast were: Julian Cruz, Alfred Harrell, Dan Johnson, Tom Williams, David Hope, Jim Arnold, Ron Davis, Tim Hall, Fred Porter, John Thom, Matthew Steel and Ron Willhoite. The special music was ample, and expertly done by various persons and groups, including the Festival Choir conducted by Ron Davis, the San Antonio Choir, and individual offerings by Luther Waller, John Thom, Mike Sloan, Mike Cruz, Billy Stefek, Ron Davis, Al Smalley, Shelly Thom, plus Ashley Stefek, Jennifer Calvert and others of the youth group. (For those of you whose names I did not get, I apologize.)

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons, Dr. Alfred Harrell of the Christian Leadership Academy, held workshops on Evangelish/Pursuit of Truth. These were well-attended with thought-provoking questions and a multitude of answers from the audience. From these workshops, Dr. Harrell obtained some interesting answers on ways to evangelize,

like: Projects That Would Take An Organized Effort, Projects That Would Take An Organized Effort (Emphasis on Advertising) and Projects That Could Be Done by Individuals or Local Churches. The varied and interesting things which people brought out was amazing. Dr. Harrell will be incorporating these ideas into his continuing educational teachings.

On Tuesday evening, we were treated to a Mexican dinner and the Mariachi Band. They were very good, and provided everyone with lots of good music and many laughs. On Wednesday evening, a clown was brought in to entertain the children, but I think they (the children) had just as much fun (as did the adults) later in the evening when Tom Williams and the Pickin' and Grinnin' Band took over the bandstand, playing and singing, while those who were inclined, danced. It

really was a great evening. On Thursday evening, we were treated to a Fish Fry at the Cole Park Amphitheater (just down the street from the Hotel) and some more Pickin' and Grinnin' music. The Fish Fry was a gift to us all from the Little Rock AR Congregation, who provided more fish than we could all eat. They brought it, they cooked it and they served it. Our thanks to the Little Rock Congregation. Friday evening a Bible Study was presented by Mr. James Ussery, which was well-attended and enjoyed by all. Saturday evening was the Fun Show/Family night with upward of 19 various acts. The acts ran from jokes, magic tricks, songs, lovely violin pieces, Hillbilly Humor, a dance by The CLA Raisinettes and One Old Prune, a skit on the Harmful Effects of Jealousy, to the show ending with a surprise visit from The King - Elvis!! A great time was had by all.

On the Sabbath afternoon, a baptism was held and we all welcomed John Van Westen as our brother in Christ. The pool was also being used that day as a birthday party, and as John came up out of the water, the children at the party were singing "Happy Birthday". Sunday was designated as "Focus on Your Family" Day and was a free day. No activities were planned until the afternoon, when a Bay Cruise on a paddle-wheeler was taken along the beautiful bay front. Monday was Youth Day with Jason Curb as the song leader, all the special music was provided by the young people, with a Children's Choir and individual's singing. On the Last Great Day, a Blessing of the Children took place, and -- with the singing of "God Be With You" and almost everyone crying, our eight days of REJOICING BEFORE THE LORD was over. Time to start gearing up for next year!!!

PRAYER REQUESTS

When we put prayer requests in this newsletter, we won't publish the persons address for privacy reasons (unless they want us to), however we really think your cards and letters and E-mails are important for the sick and hurting, so send them to us and we will forward them to the sick or hurting person. Just write that persons name on the envelope some place, so we don't open it. We really feel that the Church of God has been lacking in this area of sending cards and letters to comfort the sick and hurting in recent years. You don't even have to buy a card, make it on your computer, or just send a short little note. Something which will help these hurting people to know that you really care and want to comfort them in their time of need. We Thank You Very Much for your concern in this area.

NOVEMBER 3, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST UPDATE FOR **DON ROTH**--Linda Roth reports in regard to her father in law, Don Roth. He was in the hospital for 6 days after two hours of surgery. He had a shattered right elbow/compound fracture. He also landed on his hip when he fell, but it was not broken, only severely bruised. He has a cast on right now, and is anxiously looking forward to having it off next week. He is busy at home, and is doing pretty well. Not bad for 67 years old. Thank you for your prayers.-----Please continue to pray for his complete recovery from this accident.

NOVEMBER 8, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST AND UPDATE FOR **HEATHER VOLK**--Ron and Kathy give an update on their daughter Heather: she is scheduled for orthoscopic surgery on her hip area on Nov. 19. We had an MRI done when we got back from the Feast and they found she had also torn acetabular labrum which is cartilage in the hip area. So, hopefully this will take away the pain in her leg and she will be healed up in time for the track season. We will have to

have this done in Mpls., MN as they don't do this surgery in Fargo. It's at a Sports Hospital there. So if you can put her on the prayer list and hopefully we will have our bouncy 17 year old up and running soon!!!!!!

NOVEMBER 8, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **DAVID NICOLAY**--Anne Nicolay is requesting prayers for her husband David who has just had cancer surgery. David is recuperating from surgery slowly. He is still weak but doing ok. The surgeon says he got all of his tumor out but 6 out of 7 lymph nodes near the tumor tested positive. They were removed of course but he will need to follow up with chemo. We are not sure yet when this will begin but please keep us in your prayers. Please pray for David's full recovery.

NOVEMBER 10, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST AND UPDATE FOR **LACEY MINOT**--Terry Ramlow sent the following prayer request and update for Lacey Minot: Please remember to pray for the 6-yr-old daughter of Charles Minot. Lacey has bone cancer of the skull. Update: We just received good news

about the nature of her cancer. For the last couple of weeks the pathologists and oncologists were debating whether the cancer was a fibrous sarcoma or a rhabdomyosarcoma. The doctors were leaning toward fibrous sarcoma (as a result of some preliminary tissue stains) and the prognosis would have been bad. That particular cancer doesn't respond well to chemotherapy and would have required surgery. We had met with the surgeon and he was warning us that the location of the tumor meant that a surgery would be dangerous. The tumor is growing around critical blood vessels supplying the brain, and stroke, facial paralysis, and impaired brain function were fairly likely as a result of surgery. They said, today they conclusively identified it as a rhabdomyosarcoma - which in terms of treatment is much better. She will be in chemotherapy and radiation therapy for about a year, but if everything goes well she stands a good chance of making a full recovery. The tumor has destroyed the structure of her left ear and she will be deaf on that side - believe it or not, we couldn't care less. I am feeling

like we have received a reprieve. For the last week or so, we have been slowly preparing ourselves for the fact that Lacey may die. I am now feeling so lucky... Charles Minot (Please pray for Lacey to be completely healed--Laura)

NOVEMBER 14, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST AND UPDATE FOR **DICK WEATHERWAX**--Just a quick note to let you know that my dad, Dick Weatherwax, had an angiogram this morning which showed a 95% blockage in his carotid artery, along with a 6" blockage in one leg, and a complete blockage of 3" in one knee. He will be having surgery tomorrow to clear the blocked carotid, and go back in another 2 or 3 weeks to have his legs taken care of. The doctors said his heart looked pretty good. They are expecting a good outcome tomorrow. Please continue to keep him in your prayers. Thank you so much. Nancy Eltrich (Sent by Terry Ramlow)

NOVEMBER 15, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST AND UPDATE FOR **RICHARD RAPP**--Richard had final scans last week, and today we met with Dr. Fung, who said "soyewenweemisshunow" -- after he left I asked Richard to translate, and he said "So you are in remission now!" Whoo hoo!----All scans were clear, the mass is still there but much smaller, with no live cancer cells! Yay!----Anyway, he still can't feel his toes and now his hand is numb, so work is out of the question at this point still (for some reason when you're in the electrical/construction field you need to be able to feel your toes and hands for mundane things like climbing ladders, whatever...). So he'll still be on disability for awhile yet till he gets all the feeling back.----Thanks for all your prayers and assistance these past 8 months. We are so very grateful for our friends and family who have helped (and still are helping!) us thru this ordeal, mentally, physically and financially. We do appreciate you!----Part of an E-mail from Wanda Tripp Rapp (Sent by Neal Brantley) Please continue to pray for Richard's full healing and recovery from this illness.

NOVEMBER 16, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **DICK WEATHERWAX**--I just spoke with my mom, and my dad's kidneys aren't functioning. He was a little more awake today, but not much. The doctor's don't know what is causing the kidney failure, and have put him on a very slow dopamine drip. If that

proves ineffective, they will have to go to dialysis. Your continued prayers will be greatly appreciated. Thank you, Nancy Eltrich (Sent by Terry Ramlow) Please pray for Dick's full healing and recovery.

NOVEMBER 16, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **SARAH MCCOY**--Please put my friend Sarah McCoy on your prayer list. Last night I received word that her husband had died. He was in a nursing home. Pray that her children don't push her into doing something she doesn't want to do. She is a very humble person, her children are very rough and course, and shove her around a lot and push their wills down her throat. It's a sad situation. (Sent by Lee Ann Sanders)

NOVEMBER 16, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **FREDA MORRISON**--Also please pray for another elderly friend I have, Freda Morrison. She is in her 80's, has a bad heart, diabetes and a horribly disfigured spine, which causes her tremendous pain and agony. She is truly a tower of strength. Her spine is hunching her over so hard it is pressing her rib cage into her heart. Pray for Gods' mercy in this matter. She is truly a child of God and full of faith. (Sent by Lee Ann Sanders)

NOVEMBER 17, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **RUSTY AMES FAMILY**--Prayer of Thanksgiving! Hallelujah to the almighty giver and sustainer of life. We praise Yahweh for his blessing of a new son, Nathaniel David Ames born November 14th. Through this birth, we have another confirmation of how powerless we are and how faithful the Heavenly Father is to keep His promises. All glory and praise to Yahweh the Creator for a healthy son and mother. (Sent by Rusty Ames)

NOVEMBER 17, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **DAVID NICOLAY**--David had cancer now they found some in his brain could you put him on the prayer list, thank you. (Sent by Ron & Kathy Volk)----Please pray for David's complete healing and pray for his wife Anne.

NOVEMBER 17, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **JOAN HOFFMAN**--Walt Hoffman is requesting prayers for his wife Joan Hoffman, who has been suffering from respiratory problems for some time now. Her system has not adapted to the climate in Florida and we have our house up for sale so that we can move to another area of the country. Until that becomes a reality, we ask for the brethren to

join us in prayer that Yahweh will intervene and heal her breathing difficulties.

NOVEMBER 20, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST UPDATE FOR **DICK WEATHERWAX**--I just wanted to let everyone know how God answers our prayers! I called the hospital yesterday after I got home from school, and was told that my dad had checked out earlier. After everything he's been through, I couldn't imagine him having the energy to drive the 3+ hours home, so I called the hotel where my mom was staying. She too, had checked out. Next I called their home - no answer. I waited a couple of hours and tried again - still no answer. At this point, I was afraid that the worst had happened, and I didn't know who else to call. I left a concerned message for my mom, and asked her to call me no matter how late it got. Finally she called, and told me that my dad has indeed been released from the hospital, and is doing great! I spoke with him on the phone, and he is very thankful to be home. He'll be going back in another 2 or 3 weeks for surgery on his legs, but is giving his kidneys a chance to recuperate first. Thank you so much for your prayers. And thank God for His mercy! I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving. Nancy Eltrich (Sent by Terry Ramlow)

NOVEMBER 21, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **BRIAN**--Please put my son Brian on your prayer list. He is wasting away with a horrible condition called 'Obsessive Compulsive Disorder' (OCD), which doesn't allow him to conduct his life in a normal manner. This 'condition' was first given a national 'spotlight' review when the multimillionaire Howard Hughes was smitten with it and eventually died. There is no known cure except the 'cure' that can be given by God The Father through His Son Jesus Christ. Your prayers and the prayers of your readership could 'stem the tide' and make him whole again! Thank You! Bernard H. Kelly

NOVEMBER 24, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **BETTY TABOR**--Also please pray for a woman named Betty Tabor. When she was a child, she had polio. Now, she is suffering post polio effects in which her nerve endings are being affected. Well, one of her arms became filled with some blood clots from this problem, the hospital operated, and just before she was able to go home, a student doctor came in and took her blood pressure on that arm, even though there was a sign that

said not to take one on that arm, and it caused horrible damage to the incision. Needless to say, they had to operate again, and she lost part of a finger and is in horrible pain and has to have another operation. PLEASE PRAY FOR THIS FAMILY. They are poor, and they are really struggling. Thank you so much. May God bless your Sabbath and fill your hearts more with His merciful love! (Sent by Lee Ann Sanders)---Please pray for God to totally heal Betty.

NOVEMBER 24, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **JOYCE RUNYON**--Joyce Runyon, requests prayers for her long standing lyme disease. Severe pain, exhaustion and shingles are some of her other symptoms. Financial problems, medications are running her over \$1,000 a month; no longer has insurance. (long time friend of June Narber-mother of her best friend from High School) (Sent by June Narber)

NOVEMBER 24, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **JUNE NARBER**--June Narber, impending financial complications from recently deceased mother's estate and funeral expenses. Also was physically attacked six days after mother's funeral while in her home town in Missouri (Where June's mother lived and where estate is, not where June now lives.), but escaped before serious harm could be done; exhaustion and lowered immunity as a result. (Sent by June Narber)

NOVEMBER 25, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **RYAN AMES**--Please include my 20 year old nephew Ryan Ames in your prayers. He is tormented by drug and alcohol addiction and has voluntarily entered a 12 month residential treatment center.---Please ask that the biblical based center's treatment will be effective and that the power of Yahweh's spirit moves within Ryan to turn his life around.--- We also ask that you pray for Ryan's parents, Allen and Patricia as they deal with their concern for their firstborn. Praise Yahweh for His awesome power to overcome evil spirits and save His children. (Sent by Rusty Ames)

NOVEMBER 29, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **JIM DOHERTY**--Prayer request: My husband Jim, (an over the road semi driver.) had emergency kidney stone surgery in Springfield Mass. Monday - Basically, what happened is that the Dr. went "up" to get the stone and realized it was too large to come

down, so pushed it back into the kidney with two other stones they discovered were in there! Then they put in a stint, to keep it from coming out. He got back on the road this AM and is driving home, but feeling weak and crummy...sick to his stomach, etc. He will see a specialist on Friday and hopefully have the laser surgery that he needs. I would appreciate petitions to our God that Jim make it home safely. I'm so worried about him. Thanks much. Betty Doherty (Sent by Terry Ramlow)

NOVEMBER 30, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF **PAT ARRITT**--Please let the brethren know that Pat Arritt passed away this week. She battled diabetes, heart problems, and kidney failure. She had been on dialysis for several years. She was always a tower of strength and encouragement for many in the church. Please pray for her husband, Mike and all the children and especially the grandchildren. I was watching last night several family members trying to comfort one of the little ones because of the loss of their grandma. This is a family that has illuminated all of us with their love and tremendous compassion to others. Thank you. (Sent by Lee Ann Sanders)

NOVEMBER 30, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **TREASURE SCHNEIDER**--Please pray for Treasure Schneider, a six year old girl who is dieing of congestive heart failure. Her parents have watched her go down hill since February, and now it appears that the time is near for her to leave this world. She is a sweet little thing, but beginning to suffer miserably. Her body is engorged because of water retention, she is hungry all the time, but cannot eat. She is tired but cannot sleep. The doctors recommended a heart transplant, but her parents have wanted Yahweh to do the healing. The disease is a mystery to doctors, who don't have a clue as to why this is happening. Now she is past the point of medical intervention, which is a relief in part. Our hearts cry is for healing to come from Yahweh! Each hour of 24 is spent comforting this little gal. Pray for an end! Request submitted by Vanessa Lorentzen (friend of family)

NOVEMBER 30, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST AND UPDATE FOR **DAVID NICOLAY**--David is doing quite well now. He has responded very well to the steroids- they do make him moody - but they have successfully reduced the swelling in the brain caused by

the tumors. As you know, the cancer spread to the brain through the blood stream. The chemotherapy that he received earlier does not work in the brain area due to the blood brain barrier. However, if there is a bright side to this and I certainly think that there is, at least he did not have spreading to the liver or lungs which is what the docs and everyone would have anticipated. They continue to say that he is clear in those areas. Only 5% of the time does the type of cancer that he has spread to the brain. However, it seems to me- my clinical skills improve weekly as I absorb news, etc- that since the brain tumors are very treatable and will probably shrink to nothing with the radiation this is better than having it in other areas. The only scary thing is that we don't know for sure whether it could be somewhere else or not through the blood stream. It is still anticipated that he will have chemotherapy once he finishes with radiation. He has 16 more radiation treatments to go and will complete them on December 21st- three weeks from now. --- He is beginning to loose his hair once again and much to his disliking will probably have to shave it. This is the least of our concerns- at least mine. I am kinda used to the way he looks without hair by now. He is eating well and trying to put on weight. His appetite is good and he is enjoying a variety of foods as compared to before now. He is also motivated to get back into work so that is good. We visited the neuro oncologist (aka Gandi due to his most calming and spiritual nature-add another nickname to the list) on Tuesday who is optimistic about David's recovery. He says that he thinks he will not need the gamma knife since all the tumors should go away with radiation. He will get an MRI of the head about 3 weeks after he finishes with radiation- i.e. About mid-January. --- We are also enjoying the prayer sessions and hope that all of you far and wide pray along with us. We know that everyone has been praying for us all along and we thank you so much for that. We send much love to all of you and will stay in touch. (Sent by Annie Nicolay-David's wife)

DECEMBER 3, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **TREASURE SCHNEIDER**--Just thought you should know, the little gal appears to be getting worse. Her belly measure is 1 inch bigger in one day. Can't keep the water off. I see the end is coming. The family is really suffering. Request submitted by Vanessa Lorentzen (friend of family) **PLEASE PRAY FOR THIS**

LITTLE GIRL AND HER FAMILY.

DECEMBER 4, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST UPDATE FOR **TREASURE SCHNEIDER**--I talked very briefly with Vanessa on the phone today to get an address and Treasure is still hanging in there. I will warn everyone that the next prayer request is very reality based and is a very reality based description of what this family is going through and what Treasure is going through. A very kind gentleman over in California has been so kind as to get Treasure hooked up with a natural remedy that may or may not help Treasure out here. We are hoping this gets here to Treasure very soon and in time. Please pray that this natural remedy will get here in time and pray that God will heal Treasure now. Only God can heal. Thank you. Darwin & Laura Lee

DECEMBER 4, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **TREASURE SCHNEIDER**--To think, people we don't even know are praying, I am very touched. I spent another evening at the Schneider house last night and the little gal seemed kind of better. Her mood was happy although the body is failing. She rallied enough to play a card game, but then was back to laying on her mother. She wants to sleep continually and always on Dad or Mom. Prayer for the parents would be nice. They are about drained from the constant care giving. Night is the worst. It is not unusual to be up at 4am. Being very uncomfortable with the water weight has made her cling to her parents. She gets irritable with her brothers and likes the place quiet. It is un-natural for the 3 brothers to live like this. Everyone's nerves are stretched to the limit! This mystery illness is affecting each organ, the liver being the worst. It is probably quadruple in size now, as it is water logged. She's very tiny, but is heavy with water. She looks so little, but is hard to pick up, as the belly is so awkward. Her legs are now beginning to fill up fast with the excess and the diuretic, (That and a cough syrup her only comfort meds), is not really working. Not much for urine, and it is very dark. Her skin is very tight and stretched and she feels itchy continually. She loves to have her mother sit and scratch her little back. She is also cold and likes to sit with a heating pad or a little heater to blow on her. These simple things have become a routine and they go from small comfort to small comfort. Still each day, we are praying for Yahweh's intervention. We keep in mind His plan, and only want His best. We talk often of how

painful this is, yet how He must want to produce something. Her parents have released her into His care 100%. We believe a life is a life, whether it be 6 years or 60. To Yahweh be the glory! (Submitted by Vanessa Lorentzen)

DECEMBER 4, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **DEBORAH ANDERSON**--Please pray for Deborah and her family. She is undergoing gall bladder surgery today. (Requested by Darwin & Laura Lee)

DECEMBER 6, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST AND UPDATE FOR **TREASURE SCHNEIDER**--Just thought I'd let you know how the Schneider's are doing. The house seems peaceful! Prayers are being answered. The big kids are pitching in to help to keep things tidy while Mom and Dad are busy. Wish I could give a completely perfect report, but the water on Treasure was worse than the night before. BUT, she is so sweet. She is drawing pictures, (She's quite an imaginative artist, BTW.) and doing a really good job. She complains of not being able to think straight, but appears to be able to function, even if it is only for short intervals. Her mother thinks the "water-pill" is barely working. Not much output. Still I am amazed at how they continue on! Thank everyone for the prayers. It is helping! Praise be to Yahweh! (Sent by Vanessa Lorentzen)

DECEMBER 6, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **PAT PATTERSON**--I am requesting prayer for my stepfather, Pat Patterson. He is suffering from liver cancer. (Sent by Linda Moers)

DECEMBER 6, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **HOWARD PAYNE**--Howard had a heart attack in October 2001 and is back in the hospital with chest pains. (Requested by Darwin & Laura Lee)

DECEMBER 8, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST AND UPDATE FOR **TREASURE SCHNEIDER**--I've spent the evening with my dear friends and the failing little gal. The drops haven't arrived and I heard her Dad say as he was getting her ready for bed, "did those drops come?" I see desperation in this poor father now. I feel that they will probably try anything at this point. Treasure is really suffering and can't find comfort. Yesterday she burst into tears and screamed, "I want to die! I want to die, I want to die!" Her mother

quietly guided her in a prayer to ask the Father if he would take her home, (if that was his plan.) BUT if not, that healing would come quickly. I arrived soon after this scene and the little gal was peaceful. She tries to hold court with those she loves and will give me a quick little smile when she is pleased with something said or done. But mostly a perpetual look of pain is on her face as the feet are getting so tight that the creases in the ankles look red and sore. Her grandpa arrived to visit while I was there and since he hadn't seen her for a couple weeks he was visibly shaken at the sight. I don't know what else to say as it is all the same, dismal. On an up note, the family is continuing in peace, little or no bickering. The home is at peace! Come quickly our Redeemer! (Sent by Vanessa Lorentzen)

DECEMBER 8, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **HOWARD PAYNE**--Howard had a heart attack in October 2001 and is back in the hospital with chest pains. Howard may have to have heart bypass surgery on Monday 12-10-2001. Please pray for him. (Requested by Darwin & Laura Lee)

DECEMBER 10, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **JIM TURNBLAD**--We have in our area a man and family who need your prayers. Some of you may know him or others of the family as they have been around God's church for some time. Jim Turnblad is in the hospital. Jim had a kidney transplant a couple years back and has been doing quite well. At first it was rough but for sometime he's been doing OK. Recently he became very ill and the doctors felt his kidney is not signaling the brain to produce red blood cells so they put him on medication this past week. We just received a phone call and Jim is now in the hospital and in very serious condition. They are not sure what is wrong. There is too much calcium in his blood and also they are concerned he may have lymphoma. Jim is a young man with a young wife. They are in their 30's and Jim & Connie are both wonderful assets to the Mankato congregation and servants there. Jim's parents and several siblings are also church members. Please intervene immediately on their behalf. We would all hate to lose this wonderful man. Tearfully, Linda Schreiber (Sent by Dona Fehr)

DECEMBER 11, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST AND UPDATE FOR **TREASURE**

SCHNEIDER--I feel quite "giddy" giving this good report! The little gal seems better! Is it prayer or is it Noni juice? Her mother gave her a teaspoon at bedtime last night and she slept till morning! (First time in several months, normally they are up and down all night.) She also lost 3 lbs through out the day of water weight. Her legs and ankles looked quite a bit better. Her face was not so puffy and her eyes were sparkling. I was so amazed that I said, "I think you're getting better!" She gave me that little quick smile but this time it lingered and the frowns disappeared from her brow! Praise be to Yahweh! Could this be His answer? The problem seems complicated, yet nothing is too difficult for him! Her mother had the Tahitian Noni juice in the fridge as she had tried it several months ago for her own Migraine headaches. Another problem to pray for. This family seems to have it quite rough with maladies. Thank you all for the prayers, we feel them!----The actual "heart drops" haven't arrived yet, but I feel as tho the family is anxious to try them. Maybe Yahweh will do the work before they arrive, and that's fine with me! I feel expectant! (Sent by Vanessa Lorentzen) This is great news--please everyone, continue to pray for Treasures complete healing and pray for Treasure's mom Nadine that her migraine headaches will be healed. (As we went to print this newsletter, **Treasure Schneider is not doing well and still needs everyone's prayers. Thank you. Laura**)

DECEMBER 12, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST AND UPDATE FOR **PAT PATTERSON**--If everyone would continue to pray for my stepfather Pat Patterson and the liver cancer he is suffering from I would appreciate it so

much. He has started having more pain which is not a good sign and we ask for prayers for his healing and relief of discomfort. (Sent by Linda Moers)

DECEMBER 13, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST AND UPDATE FOR **PAT PATTERSON**--Pat is starting to experience some added pain and has experienced one bad bout with nausea which is one sign of the cancer in his liver. He is loosing strength also. We know God had intervned as the doctors are surprised that he hasn't had more nausea and pain. Thank you so much for your concern and getting the word out about those that need our prayers. It is truly appreciated. (Sent by Linda Moers)

DECEMBER 13, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST UPDATE FOR **JIM TURNBLAD**--Jim was released from the hospital this morning and is sleeping well here at home. His blood levels are good and they are confident that his hemoglobin will continue to rise after they gave him a transfusion of 2 pints of blood yesterday. He expects to return to work some time next week. Connie Turnblad (Sent by Dona Fehr)

DECEMBER 15, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **HOWARD PAYNE**--Howard had heart bypass surgery on Monday and was put in a regular room. Then sometime late Monday there was a problem and they had to operate again, and he has been in intensive care ever since. It is somewhat hard for us to get details on this, since we are not family, but please pray for Howard, that God will heal him completely. (Requested by Darwin & Laura Lee)

DECEMBER 15, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **LISA MARTIN**--My name is Missy Barker, and I would like to pass a prayer request to your church. God has told us that He will move when his people pray, and our friends Tony and Lisa need your prayers. We would like to reach all the churches we can, so please pass this on. I thank you in advance for your support, you can reach Tony and Lisa at: intmartandl@centurytel.net ---- Hi, My name is Tony Martin I have a very special and Urgent prayer request. We go to the First Assembly of God. My wife Lisa who just turned 30 on Monday Dec. 3rd, is battling cancer. She has had her fourth surgery as of Wed., and the cancer is finding its way into the spinal cord and muscles of her back, the original tumor was on her spine, she is fighting bone cancer. We have 2 young girls, Mackenzie age 9 and Wendi age 6. The Dr.'s aren't telling us anything good at all or giving us much hope if any. Please believe with us that God will kill this cancer so that Lisa can come home to her family. She has been fighting this since April. Please, I beg of you in the name of Jesus, read this request to your congregation. ---- Please also remember Lisa's dad Carl Neal in your prayers as he is having a hard time of it as we all are. Thank you so very much. Tony Martin (Sent by Lee Ann Sanders)

Please send your prayer request by snail mail to: Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502
By E-mail to: Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@juno.com By Fax to: (775) 239-2119.

SEND ORDERS TO:

Darwin & Laura Lee
320 N. Griffin St.
Bismarck, ND 58501
(701) 258-7172

SEND TAPES & LITERATURE TO:

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

OTHER TAPES

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|---|---|
| _____ 1. Nimrod's Effect on the Church Today
Wes White 6-17-00 | _____ 2. Spiritual Gifts (3 Tapes & Study Papers)
Wayne & Claudia Speed |
| _____ 3. Church of God Big Sandy Seminar (3 Tapes)
12-23&24-00 | _____ 4. Interview With Dixon Cartright, by Ken Westby
6-9-01 |
| _____ 5. The Holy Spirit
Wayne Speed | _____ 6. Keynote Message For The Tulsa Conference
C. Wayne Cole & Dixon Cartwright 7-22-00 |
| _____ 7. The Hireling & the Wolf --Brian Convery (3 Tapes) | |

THESE TAPES ARE FROM THE BUILDING BRIDGES PROGRAM IN MINNESOTA. FOR INFORMATION ON THE BUILDING BRIDGES PROGRAM YOU MAY CONTACT DALE & DONA FEHR AT DLFehr@compuserve.com TAPES MAY BE ORDERED THROUGH US.

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|--|--|
| _____ 1. C. Wayne Cole 12-18-99 | _____ 2. Ray Wooten 3-25-00 |
| _____ 3. Wayne & Claudia Speed 4-22&23-00
Marriage Seminar (5 Tapes & Study Papers) | _____ 4. Ken Westby 6-10&11-00 (2 Tapes) |
| _____ 5. Dave Havir 9-9-00 | _____ 6. Norm Edwards 11-18-00 (2 Tapes) |
| _____ 7. Dennis Mouland 3-10-01 (2 Tapes) | _____ 8. Ron Dart 4-28-01 (2 Tapes) |
| _____ 9. Ron Smith 5-26&27-01 (3 Tapes) | _____ 10. David Antion 7-28-01 (2 Tapes) |
| _____ 11. Dean & Susan Wheelock 9-15-01 (2 Tapes) | _____ 12. Leon Sexton 11-17-01 (2 Tapes) |

LITERATURE [Snail Mail Only]

- _____ 1. Why Were We Disfellowshipped By The United Church of God an International Association?
by Darwin & Laura Lee 111 pages
- _____ 2. Wiley & Suzanne Black (Another Case of Abuse) by Bernard Kelly (The Bible Expositor--Last Issue) 16 pages

NEWSLETTER--BACK ISSUES [Snail Mail Only]

- _____ 1. January/February 2001--Issue No. 1
- A. UCG Attendance Policy Raises More Questions (From Servant's News)
 - B. Humor--Public Service Announcement (From Servant's News)
 - C. Ending the Cycle of Abuse in the Church of God--by Laura Lee
- _____ 2. March/April 2001--Issue No.2
- A. Humor--A Parable and Evolution
 - B. Is Disfellowshipping a Christian Practice?--by Arlan Weight
 - C. Just Judgment Important for Local Congregations--by Darwin Lee & Norman Edwards
 - D. Letter of Appeal--by Ned Dancuo
 - E. Go To Your Brother...--by Arlan Weight
- _____ 3. May/June 2001--Issue No. 3
- A. Are You Busy?--by Turning Point Ranch Ministries
 - B. Letters Section--What is Anger? What is a Heart? What is Division? What is Individual Responsibility?
 - C. Passover--by Arlan Weight
 - D. Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage--by Laura Lee
- _____ 4. July/August 2001--Issue No. 4
- A. The Titanic--Then and Now--by Myra McQueen
 - B. Woe...--by Tawanda Ray (Poem)
 - C. Testimony of Abuse Within the Church of God--by Tawanda Ray
 - D. Bear Witness--by Tawanda Ray (Poem)
 - E. God's Government--by Arlan Weight
 - F. Gifts of the Spirit--by Laura Lee
- _____ 5. September/October 2001--Issue No. 5
- A. Where Are God's People?--by Laura Lee
 - B. They Sang As It Were A New Song Before The Throne--by Author Unknown
 - C. Fat Cats, Fat Cats--by Tawanda Ray (Poem)
 - D. First Love--by Arlan Weight
 - E. Why Do You Observe Saturday?--by John Currier
 - F. A Church Without Women--by Dianne D. McDonnell
- _____ 6. November/December 2001--Issue No. 6
- A. "Unless You Change..."--by Royce Mitchell, Jr.
 - B. Paul and Women Teachers--by Dianne D. McDonnell
 - C. Delight in the Sabbath--by James McBride
 - D. Physical Illness and Demon Possession--by Don Esposito
 - E. Demon Possession and How it Comes About--by Don Esposito
 - F. Truth--by Arlan Weight